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VOLUME LXXIII

NUMBER 24

MAY 15, 1926



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# The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 15, 1926

\$3.00 a Year. 20 Cents a Copy

## Pistol and Revolver Training Course

Prepared for the use of Police and of Civilian Clubs and Individuals

By Col. A. J. Macnab, Jr., U. S. A.

*Rifle and Pistol Instructor of all of the American Forces in France during the World War*

### PART IV

(Conclusion)

#### APPENDIX III

##### Information Concerning the Automatic Pistol (Calibre .45 Colt)

###### a. The Sights:

The remarks included in Appendix II-a concerning revolver sights apply equally to the sights of automatic pistols.

###### b. Functioning:

(1) The pistol is recoil operated. The force of recoil drives the slide and barrel backward together. A downward movement of the barrel then unlocks it from the slide, which continues its backward movement alone, opening the breech, cocking the hammer, and compressing the recoil spring. During this backward movement the empty shell is extracted by the extractor and thrown out by the ejector.

(2) The slide having reached its rearmost position, the pressure of the recoil spring drives it forward again. During this return movement it carries a fresh cartridge from the magazine into the chamber. The hammer remains cocked and the pistol is ready to fire.

(3) The trigger pressure must be released after each shot in order that the trigger may reengage. The trigger must be pressed with the index finger. If the second finger is used on the trigger the index finger will be extended along the side of the receiver where it is apt to press against the projecting end of the slide stop pin, thus causing a jam when the slide recoils.

(4) When the magazine has been emptied the magazine follower pushes up the slide stop, thereby locking the slide in the open position. This serves as an indicator to remind the firer that the last shot has been discharged.

(5) Pressure upon the magazine catch releases the empty magazine from the handle and permits the insertion of a loaded one. In inserting the magazine, care must be exercised to push it home and to see that it engages the magazine catch. In no case should the base of the magazine be struck to force it home. A blow may spring the base or the inturning lips at the top; these changes will produce jams.

(6) To release the slide from the open position it is only necessary to press down the slide stop with the right thumb; the slide will then move forward to its closed position, carrying a cartridge from the previously inserted magazine into the chamber. The pistol is again ready for firing.

###### c. Safety Devices:

Safety devices should be frequently tested. A safety device is a danger device if it does not work when expected.

###### d. Test of Safety Lock:

Cock the hammer, and then press the safety lock upward into the safe position. Grasp the stock so that the grip safety is de-

pressed and press the trigger three or four times. If the hammer falls, the safety lock is not safe and must be repaired.

###### e. Test of Grip Safety:

Cock the hammer and, being careful not to depress the grip safety, press the trigger three or four times. If the hammer falls the grip safety is not safe and must be repaired.

###### f. Test of Half-Cock Notch:

Draw back the hammer until the sear engages the half-cock notch and press the trigger. If the hammer falls, the hammer or sear must be replaced or repaired. Draw the hammer back nearly to full cock and then let it slip. It should fall only to half cock.

###### g. Test of Disconnecter:

Shove the slide one-quarter inch to the rear; hold slide in that position and press the trigger. Let the slide go forward, *maintaining* the pressure on the trigger. If the hammer falls the disconnecter is worn on top and must be replaced. Pull the slide all the way to the rear and engage the slide stop. Press the trigger, and at the same time release the slide. The hammer should not fall. Release the pressure on the trigger and then press it. The hammer should then fall. The disconnecter prevents the release of the hammer unless the slide and barrel are in the forward position safely interlocked. It also prevents more than one shot following each press on the trigger.

###### h. Dummy Cartridges. (See Paragraph 15.):

To make a dummy cartridge, bore a small hole ( $\frac{1}{8}$  inch) in the powder space of the shell; shake the powder out through the hole; place the cartridge between two blocks of wood which have grooves cut to fit the cartridge and leave the hole free so that the gas can escape, lock the blocks of wood in a vise and snap the primer with a large nail. The primer should not be snapped in the pistol because sufficient gas is generated by the primer to drive the bullet into the barrel. If the bullet is displaced when the primer is snapped in a vise it should be driven back to place.

Dummy cartridges should not be used except on the firing line of the pistol range. The same precautions should be observed as in using loaded ammunition.

#### APPENDIX IV

##### Safety Precautions and Care and Cleaning of Arms

###### a. Safety Precautions:

(1) "Unload" the pistol every time you pick it up for any purpose. Never trust your memory. Consider every pistol as loaded until you have proven otherwise.

(2) Always unload the pistol if it is to be left where some one else may handle it.

(Continued on Page 2)



# Do We Baby Our Shooters?

By C. C. Finn

(An Editorial)

SOME time ago a boy came in and wanted to join the rifle club. I explained when we shot, indoors, and outdoors; how he could draw a club rifle and finally that we sold ammunition for 50c per bandolier to club members and that our range fee was 50c per afternoon. He looked very much surprised and asked, "Gee, do you have to pay anything?" I assured him that we had to collect for the men who handle the targets and that it costs real money to get up score cards and do the many things necessary to make shoots run off smoothly. He left, apparently dazed, and he hasn't been back. A long time ago a young fellow came in and said that he had decided to join our rifle team and showed me his record in the Marine Corps, from which he had just been discharged; coming right to the point, he wanted to know what there was in it for him to shoot with us and when I told him that we paid nothing and our members paid their own expenses, provided their own cartridges and paid a range fee for the privilege of

shooting, he was also shocked and went out, never to return.

If golf was a means of national defense and a good Uncle Sam provided part of the outfit as well as the links, I wonder if golf would have any players? Do we do so much for shooters to get them into the game that they get to figuring that we don't do half enough for them? Should shooters be paid, say, at the rate of \$30.00 per month with allowances extra and extra for foreign service, length of service, etc., allowed pensions, etc.? Every week our shooters compare the amount they have lost by coming out to shoot and it breaks my heart to hear them. Should we restrict shooting and not permit those who can't afford it to indulge? I never heard golfers tell how much they lose by playing, but I know where lots of them have lost a lot by playing on week days, letting business go where business goes when there is no one to attend to it.

Do you suppose that if we took all the governmental crutches from under rifle shooting and told them all: "Shoot if you must, this old gray head, but shoot on your own expense," she said, or words to that ef-

fect. Do you suppose that they would at once be getting out bond issues to build ranges and the game would grow by the well known leaps and bounds?

Well, I don't know. The fact remains that a grand sport is losing out to golf because golf attracts a class of players who are supposed to have money, the supposition being based on the fact that it is supposed that they couldn't play it if they didn't have money. Golf is advised to all insurance agents, real estate men, doctors and all others who can benefit by associating with persons of means. One of our members dropped out and took up golf and was very frank in stating to a party whom he didn't think would tell me about it that he didn't meet the class of men on the range who could do him any good. There is no doubt that he did meet that class on the golf links, as the expense of playing golf almost assures the fact that the players are above the average financially. Maybe we must get down to the system of making shooting expensive enough to attract a class which will in turn attract those who wish to meet those financial, who are financially worth meeting.

## Pistol and Revolver Training Course

(Continued from Page 1)

- (3) Always point the pistol up when snapping it after examination.
- (4) Never place the finger within the trigger guard until ready to fire or to snap for practice.
- (5) On the range do not snap for practice while standing back of the firing line.
- (6) Never turn around at the firing point while you have a loaded pistol in your hand.
- (7) Never point a pistol at any person whom you do not intend to shoot.
- (8) Always examine your pistol before loading it to see that the bore is free from obstruction.
- (9) On the range, do not load the pistol until you are on the firing line and ready to fire.
- (10) In using a *revolver*, do not put more than five cartridges in the cylinder. In carrying a loaded *revolver*, always have an empty chamber under the hammer. A revolver which falls to the ground nearly always strikes on the hammer and if the chamber under the hammer is loaded the chances of some one in the vicinity being shot are excellent. The safety devices placed on revolvers to prevent this often fail to work.
- (11) The following points apply to the *automatic pistol* only:
  - (a) If there is any delay on the firing line lock the pistol and only unlock it while extending the arm to fire. Do not lower the hammer on a loaded cartridge; the pistol is much safer cocked and locked.
  - (b) In reducing a jam, first remove the magazine.
  - (c) To remove a cartridge not fired, first remove the magazine and then draw back the slide.

(d) In service or campaign the pistol should be carried with a fully loaded magazine in the socket, chamber empty, hammer down.

(e) If the pistol is carried in the holster loaded, cocked, and locked, the butt of the pistol should be rotated away from the body when drawing the pistol in order to avoid displacing the safety lock.

### b. Care and Cleaning:

(1) All firearms rust very rapidly if they are left uncleaned after being fired. No arm should be left over night without cleaning after it has been fired. When the bore of a gun rusts, part of the metal is removed in the form of red dust. This affects the accuracy of the gun in proportion to the amount of rusting which has taken place. No amount of cleaning can repair the damage already done, but it may prevent further damage.

(2) The cleaning of the bore consists of: First, removing the powder residue and other fouling caused by the firing, and, second, protecting the bore and chamber or chambers by means of oil or grease from moisture and consequent rust. The fouling is easily removed by running through the bore cloth patches moistened with water or with any of the well known commercial powder solvents. The advantage of using a powder solvent is that it does not injure the bore if it is not thoroughly cleaned out, as does water. After cleaning out the bore with water it must be thoroughly dried and then oiled or greased. If the gun is to be used within a day or two, powder solvent may be left in the bore, but if it is to be put away for any length of time the solvent should be removed and the bore coated with heavy oil or grease. Light oils, especially those light oils which are very much advertised as performing more than one function, should not be used. Commercial sperm oil, cosmic oil, or some form of gun grease serve the purpose best.

(3) The working parts of all guns should be kept clean and well oiled. It is good practice to take a gun apart and clean and re-oil all of the working parts at least once a year.



# Co-Eds Walk In Crockett's Way

By Etta Martin

(This is the Third Story to be Printed in *The American Rifleman's* \$200 Prize Contest)

DOWN in Austin, Texas, co-eds of the University of Texas, who are members of the Rifle and Archery Clubs, are walking in the footsteps of Bowie and Crockett.

Every Friday night the Rifle Club meets in the mess hall at Camp Mabry, government reservation near Austin, on the range belonging to the Austin Rifle Club. One great advantage of this range is the fact that the score card works automatically. At every shot the score is recorded, thus doing away with pit duty. Before this year the girls had to pull the targets themselves. Firing is at a range of 50 feet.

Although a good eye and steady nerves are helpful in becoming a "crack shot," the most important requirements are the knowledge

of how to press the trigger and hold the piece. When these have been mastered, it is not very hard to become proficient in shooting. The girls fire from four positions: prone, kneeling, standing and sitting.

Membership in the club is limited to 24 girls. At present there are thirteen on the waiting list. The Rifle Club at the University is the only girls' club of the sort in Texas, although many of the eastern colleges have them.

Plans are now being made for telegraphic meets with the Boys' Rifle Club at A. & M. College. The girls also will hold a handicap match with the Austin Rifle Club.

Officers of the club for the present year are: Katy Rae Hall of Dallas, president; Minnie Peterson of San Antonio, vice-presi-

dent; Bertha Black of Navasota, secretary; Isabel Foster of Kingsville, treasurer; Miss Ellen Jervy, instructor in physical training for women, chaperon; and S. N. Ekiahl, instructor in physical training for men, coach.

One of the best woman pistol shots in the United States, Miss Grace McClellan, an ex-student of the University, organized the Rifle Club in the spring of 1923. Harold Wellborn was appointed coach. Mr. Wellborn was at that time president of the Longhorn Rifle Club, an organization of men students of the University, which is no longer in existence.

The University of Texas was one of the first colleges to recognize rifle shooting as a sport for girls. The first year membership was limited to 50.



University of Texas co-eds at practice with the coach and pupil system.

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# Double Express Rifle vs. Repeaters

By Gustavus D. Pope

**A**LMOST every American contemplating a shooting trip in Africa comes up against the problem of the Double Express Rifle, which British sportsmen in general accept as standard equipment for dangerous game. Does the American really need one, and if so, why? Is not one of the modern large caliber heavy repeaters, made by several British and two American firms, good enough?

An answer to these questions involves the consideration of a number of factors; and as one American who has fairly recently gone through the experience, I am asked to set them forth.

The two main considerations in selecting a rifle for dangerous big game, to stand, as it were, in the relation of life assurance to the sportsman—are absolute reliability of function and adequate power.

The chief claim made for the Double Express by English sportsmen is complete reliability. They proclaim the mechanism of the double so strong and simple that it practically never fails to function; therefore when at close quarters before a dangerous beast, a man can stake his life on the certainty and speed with which two tremendous blows can be delivered with the modern double rifle.

The high price it commands—from \$300 to \$1,000, according to grade and make—is, they argue, a guarantee of that perfect workmanship and rigid selection of material which insure certain operation, and these finer rifles are in fact practically hand-made by the best mechanics in England.

It is also pointed out that these weapons are balanced like a shotgun and have the feel of one in the hands, so that one can make a quick, instinctive snap-shot at a moving target, just as one can with a shotgun.

True, they weigh from ten to thirteen pounds (even more with the 600 bores, but these are now seldom used), but that for the average man is not of consequence in the excitement of a perilous situation any more than is the heavy recoil. One of my friends says that when he came upon an elephant suddenly in the forest, the twelve-pound rifle, which had seemed to weigh a ton as he sweated up and down hill in pursuit, suddenly lost all weight and he had to look at it to be sure he wasn't carrying his six-pound shotgun.

Handiness is more a matter of balance and proportion than weight, and these rifles as a rule are fully six inches shorter than a heavy repeater, and beautifully balanced, the weight falling near the breech.

Men accustomed to shooting with the double-barrel shotgun take to them instinctively, and in the operation of the safety, the triggers, the top-lever, the breech mechanism, all are pleasantly familiar. The low

sights are suggestive of the shotgun—a broad open "V" in the rear, and a large ivory bead front set on the broad matted rib; they line up quickly and unerringly on a well fitted double rifle.

For all these reasons first, the double rifle appeals to the average Englishman and many Americans; and secondly, they do make possible the use of the most powerful loads ever devised for a shoulder arm.

**R**EADING Selous' story of his early days in South Africa when he hunted elephant for ivory and a living, you see the beginnings of the modern elephant rifle. His main reliance at first was the cheap single-barrel muzzle-loading smooth bore commonly used by the trek Boers—the old Roerer—which shot 15 drams of coarse black powder and took a ball that ran four to the pound.

Sir Samuel Baker, who had hunted elephant in Ceylon and India, was equipped with breech loaders, 10 bores, on his first expedition into the Soudan country, but being an exceptionally powerful man, and finding that the lead balls did not, with the African elephant, penetrate the skull, as they did with the Indian elephant, he had a special rifle made weighing over twenty pounds, and shooting a half-pound shell. He admits it had a furious recoil. "It used to spin me around like a teetotum and give me a bloody nose at every shot," he says, "but it was a wonderful killer."

Somewhat later, in the '80's, as powders of better grade were developed, we see the breech-loading, eight-bore coming into use, until it became the common heavy weapon of the battery. Eight-bore, shooting about 14 drams of black powder, or sometimes ten-bore, was a part of nearly every English sportsman's equipment at first in Ceylon and India, then in Africa. Then came the .577, considered, as compared with the big bores, an excellent all around rifle for use on buck or dangerous game. Messrs. Holland say they first made a rifle for this cartridge for Sir Samuel Baker and its popularity endures down to this day, when it is the choice of some of the best and most experienced big game hunters.

**T**HE Cordite powder in the late '90's brought in the .450 high velocity cartridge with 480-grain nickel-jacketed bullets, which became, for many years, almost the standard weapon of the British sportsman, inasmuch as it had good accuracy up to three hundred yards, was suitable for antelope or lion, with soft-nosed bullets, and yet adequate for rhino, buffalo, and elephant, having fine penetration and great shocking power.

The .450 double Cordite Express Rifle has therefore all the prestige of long use and

good killing reputation, and as our British cousins are slow to change, they still hold to the true and tried weapon, though following a government regulation excluding cartridges of .45 caliber from India, the principal makers brought out modifications of the cartridge in the .465, .470, .475, etc.

I recall that it was Neuman, the great elephant hunter, who took with him in 1894 the new British rifle, the .303 Lee Metford, and, after some experiments, found that this cartridge, with its long, thin bullet and high velocity (very similar to our .30-40) gave such wonderful results on elephant, that, as he says, "I never wished for any other."

Others soon learned that the high velocity cartridges of our military type were, when used with care, very effective even on thick-skinned big game.

The little .256 Mannlicher came to be used by many men for this purpose, and Bell in his "Wanderings of An Elephant Hunter" declares that the 7 mm.—the .275—was the most reliable rifle for all game, and used it on lion, rhino, buffalo, and elephant alike, with deadly effect; but he properly warns one that in using it one must remain cool and take one's time in shooting. It was light, accurate, powerful; and in the hands of a cool man absolutely deadly.

The South African, brought up like our western pioneers with a rifle in his hands, really introduced the repeater to East Africa, I think, for he was a first-class rifleman and killed with whatever rifle he carried.

The great advantage for the settler and average sportsman in the repeater was that these repeating rifles were comparatively inexpensive, only 20 to 45 pounds—say \$100 to \$220—as against 110 pounds for even the medium grades of doubles by the best makers, such as Holland, Westley Richards or Rigby, though the latter produces a good weapon at 60 guineas, or \$300.

The main criticism of the magazine rifle was, of course, that it would jam and leave the hunter helpless. Perhaps some of them did, but more likely they were jammed, especially those taking a long cartridge case, for the bolt has a long throw and must be brought clear back or the top cartridge is not picked off the carrier platform by the bolt face, and so one is in trouble.

None of these rifles, however, used a really heavy cartridge until Westley Richards brought out their .425 with solid nickel 410-grain bullet (that is, a solid thick nickel jacket), which would punch through a 3/8-inch steel plate at 25 yards. They also produced for this a lighter bullet of patented design—the L. T. copper point of 300 grains with a velocity of 2,450 f.s. and an energy of 3,900, which was remarkably effective on soft-skinned animals.

A few years ago, "for sportsmen who, on



account of price or for other reasons, prefer for heavy or dangerous game a single-barrel rifle with magazine," Rigby put out the .416. This is a beautifully balanced weapon weighing 10 pounds, the bullet weighing 410 grains with 2,371 velocity and developing (according to catalog) 5,110 foot pounds.

I know a number of men who have used and like this particular rifle, among them Mr. Charles Gray, brother of Earl Gray and of George Gray (who was killed by a lion in 1910 at the time Roosevelt was in British East Africa). Mr. Gray, whom I met going out to Kenya, said he put great faith in this particular weapon, and cited the case of a friend who, armed with this, escaped the charge of an elephant in some bush by reason of his ability, even when running and dodging, to get a fresh cartridge into the chamber, with which he brought the beast down, "and this," said Mr. Gray, "would have been quite impossible with the double rifle."

**H**OLLAND produced their .375 magazine rifle, Mauser action, using a .270-grain bullet at over 2,000 feet velocity; then a patented "Velopex bullet" was pushed 2,500 feet; finally the shell was given increased capacity or a new powder employed and they brought out a Magnum .375 with a 270-grain soft-nosed bullet, a muzzle velocity of around 2,800 feet, or with a special 235-grain bullet, 2,900 feet, and a striking energy of 4,300 pounds.

Selous, they advised me, did most of his latter-day shooting with this rifle, and I myself used it in Kenya, finding it most handy and effective, so that, hunting alone with it, I did not feel the need of the second heavy gun—a .465 double Holland—which is itself a beautiful weapon, weighing some eleven pounds, and Leslie Tarlton's personal and favorite gun.

The Rigbys are best known as the makers of the famous .350 Rigby, which has a fine record as an all-around African game rifle and divides the honors in that country with the Westley Richards .318, both being used by many men as their only weapon, even on elephant and buffalo.

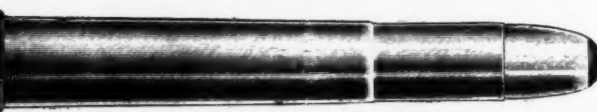
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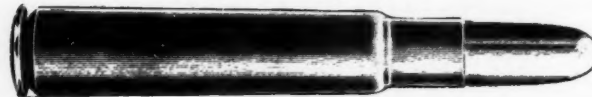
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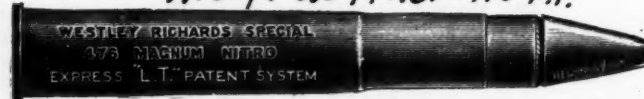
.577 CORDITE  
1950 F.S. 5485 F.P.



.470 RIGBY 500 gr.



.410 gr 2371 F.S. 5110 F.P.



.476 MAGNUM



.450 CORDITE



.425 2350 F.S. 5022 F.P.



.350 225 gr.  
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10 BORE HOLLAND



10 BORE  
BULLET

Arms Company makes a rifle for the .375 Magnum cartridge, and three friends of mine who used them in a recent trip through Africa from north to south were very much pleased with it.

Using the same case, necked down to .35 caliber, with a most carefully proportioned powder charge and a .370 bullet of a new design, Griffin & Howe have produced a .350 Magnum that has already demonstrated great accuracy, comparatively light recoil and great killing power.

These, with the Whelen .400, put at the disposal of the American riflemen three very fine weapons for African shooting. As to the .505 Gibbs, I have seen and handled the arm, but know nothing of its performance and can only say that men in Africa expressed the opinion that it had gone beyond the limit of size for a magazine rifle.

To go back, then, the British sportsman likes the double because he considers it reliable, handy and powerful, and it has become a tradition in sport to use it in shooting dangerous game.

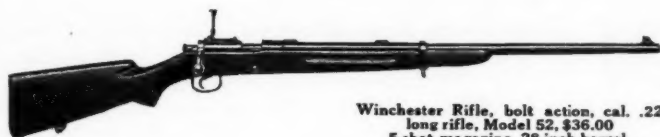
As to reliability, I personally saw one beautiful double rifle by the best maker in England with a broken mainspring, which had snapped when the owner, facing a wounded buffalo, went to fire his second barrel. I was told of another, by a good maker, which developed the habit of letting off both barrels when the breech was snapped shut. The owner's white hunter, an ingenious American, is said to have run in close to a wounded elephant and slain it by a double heart shot, produced by snapping the breech shut at the critical moment. The moral is that all mechanisms are liable to go wrong some time, no matter how well designed or put together.

For the American who is a seasoned rifleman of proven coolness and courage, a good repeating rifle in which he has faith, using a powerful cartridge with a well designed heavy bullet, will kill the big animals up to elephant—and perhaps including him—as surely as a big double, if the bullets are placed in the right spot.

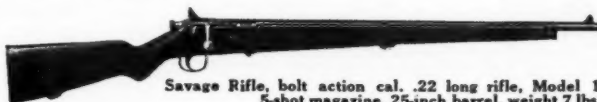
It is Bell, the elephant hunter, who says that the small-caliber rifle with penetration is for the cool rifleman who plans his shots, and the big double is the arm for the man who is not cool and fires at the whole

(Continued on Page 21)

# BETTER GUNS AND AMMUNITION FOR LESS MONEY



Winchester Rifle, bolt action, cal. .22  
long rifle, Model 52, \$36.00  
5-shot magazine, 28-inch barrel,  
Weight 8 3/4 lbs. (Improved Model)



Savage Rifle, bolt action cal. .22 long rifle, Model 1919, \$16.75  
5-shot magazine, 25-inch barrel, weight 7 lbs.

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SAVAGE 1919 N. R. A.  
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5,000 rounds.....	\$29.00
1,000 rounds.....	6.25
Peter's Tackhole, Indoor or Outdoor	
5,000 rounds.....	31.00
1,000 rounds.....	6.75
Remington Palma	
5,000 rounds.....	26.00
1,000 rounds.....	5.75
Western Marksman	
5,000 rounds.....	23.00
1,000 rounds.....	5.00
U. S. N. R. A.	
5,000 rounds.....	24.50
1,000 rounds.....	5.25

Lyman



Front Sight No. 17

This sight may be obtained for the Springfield, Winchester or Savage. . . . Price \$3.00

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1108 Woodward Building

WASHINGTON, D. C.

# The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN



PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY ON THE FIRST AND FIFTEENTH DAYS AT 1105 WOODWARD BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C., BY THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASS'N.

JACK ROHAN, Editor.



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## Mrs. Potts Calls The Turn

WHEN the soft-voiced men and hard-voiced women of the type who love the little Red Bolshie, pet hobo poets and blurb about the downtrodden pariah of India, induced the House military affairs committee in the last days of April to listen to their pleas that compulsory military training be banished from all schools they thought they were well on their way toward eliminating an important contribution to National Defense.

As a matter of fact, they convinced everybody, themselves excepted, that the present arrangement is a good thing if for no other reason than that the types who spoke against it before the House committee oppose it.

In addition to the public-spirited citizens, soldiers with honorable wounds and veterans with distinguished service decorations a delegation of the youngsters the pacifists sought to "save from the horrors of militarism," urged the House committee to permit the present arrangement to continue. And these young chaps gave Mrs. Cornelia Ross Potts of Washington the opportunity to ask a pertinent question. It was this:

"Have the proponents of this bill (the bill to kill military training in schools and colleges) been able to muster any square-shouldered, straight-backed he-men for their side, similar to these boys?"

Mrs. Potts in asking that question did a sound service. She undoubtedly voiced the views of the mothers—and fathers—of the men who will guide the destinies of the country in the next generation.

The views of those who raise their children to be cake-eaters are not of much account.

However, the babbling of geese once awakened Rome to its peril, and thereby saved it. The babbling of the pacifist geese gave Mrs. Potts a chance to say a "mouthful."

## The Pet Snake Bites

NEWSPAPER dispatches on April 28 announced that a bootlegging gang in Cicero, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, had murdered William McSwiggen, an assistant prosecutor of Cook County, in which Chicago is located. The killers used a machine gun. The burst of fire which snuffed out McSwiggen's life also killed two gangland characters who were with him. He left his home with one of them, it was learned, to play a game of cards. He recently prosecuted both for murder, but failed of conviction.

The press dispatches also announced that immediately after the murder a "drag-net was thrown out." They added that the barrooms, brothels, and gaming houses of Cicero were "dark" for the first time in many moons—that the police had clamped on the lid.

The killing, according to the Chicago press, is a deep mystery. In a special article elsewhere in this issue Wilbur Cooper undertakes to tear aside a few of the veils.

In the meantime one wonders why a prosecutor was playing around with men he presumably had tried to hang, and why, if the police authorities were sufficiently familiar with the haunts of vice in Cicero to nail them up when a prosecutor was killed, they didn't clamp on the lid long ago.

The ability of the authorities to grab the snake's tail when it bit a member of their clan, causes one to suspect that they knew where it was all the time.

## New York's "Worse" Anti-Gun Law Killed

THE Esmond bill, introduced into the New York state legislature, has been referred back to the committee on codes. This means that it will not again appear this session and therefore is dead. This bill was the most vicious measure ever offered in any legislature. It provided for the confiscation of all pistols and revolvers; although it camouflaged the provision under a lot of hoakum about licensing. Much of the credit for killing this un-American measure is due Peter P. Carney, publicity manager of the Remington Firearms Company. Mr. Carney was among the first to discover the insidious purpose of the measure and called the attention of Brig. Gen. M. A. Reckord, executive of the N. R. A., to the attempt to sneak the bill through. Then, with the cooperation of Gen. Reckord and a number of public-spirited individuals of New York state, Mr. Carney succeeded in having the bill recommitted to committee where it undoubtedly will remain.

At the same time the New York legislature passed a piece of constructive legislation. The bill, which provides extra penalty, without benefit of commutation or parole, for felonies in which the criminal is armed has a maximum punishment of life-imprisonment for the third crime committed while armed. It is now before Gov. Smith of New York for his signature and probably will be signed before this issue of the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN goes to press.

THE Chicago Crime Commission is seeking \$500,000 in public subscriptions with which to push an investigation into the murder of an assistant state's attorney and into crime conditions generally. If the commission will spend \$100,000 of the contribution telling the public what it already knows about the liaison of politics and crime and the other \$400,000 teaching the decent citizens to shoot, it will throw itself out of a job. The reputable residents of Chicago will soon run the crooks into a hole.

LAWRENCE S. BEARSE, manager of a bank at Uphams Corner, in Massachusetts, fired one shot at a holdup man who stuck up the bank and grabbed \$5,000. Mr. Bearse took his time and held at "six o'clock." His bullet struck the holdup man in the head. Knowing how to handle a pistol or rifle has advantages at times.



# Changes in Savage Model .20 Bolt Action

By Townsend Whelen

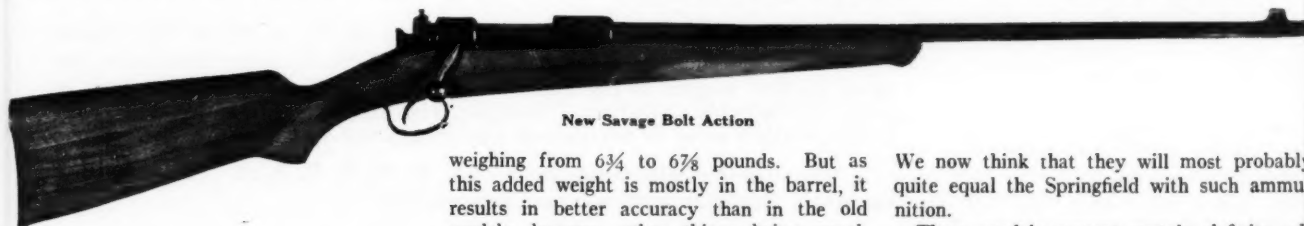
THE Savage Arms Corporation have recently instituted several important changes in their Model 20 bolt-action rifles using the .250-3,000 and .300 Savage cartridges. These changes have resulted in considerably improving the efficiency, accuracy, and handiness of these weapons. The illustration tells the story very well. The Lyman No. 54 sleeve sight has been made standard on the rifle, and the old rear sight slot is omitted from the barrel, which should make for a little better accuracy. The stock has been redesigned with a higher comb,

peep of the Lyman sight, because the stock was designed for the sight.

Seven ounces have been added to the weight of the barrel. The new barrel for both calibers is 24 inches long and has a heavier breech and increased thickness over the entire length. The new barrel measures .130 inch thicker over the forward end of the chamber, and tapers to .620 inch at the muzzle instead of .575 inch for the former featherweight barrel. The modification of the stock and barrel result in the weight being very slightly increased, this new model

seen on Smith & Wesson revolvers. The new stock will have a ribbed varnish finish.

We believe that the rifle has been very greatly improved by these changes. It was a mighty good little rifle before, but the forearm seemed ill shaped and too thin to most shooters; the comb was not quite high enough, and the barrel was so light that it had considerable flip or jump. We note that every one of these objections has now been removed. At 200 yards the older models used to shoot very nearly as well as the Springfield would shoot with sporting ammunition.



New Savage Bolt Action

which most excellently leads the eye into the line of sight and supports the head in aiming. The forearm is very much fuller and of better shape. The original stock was fairly good in its dimensions, but the new one is much better, the sight equipment and the stock seeming to be made for one another so that when the rifle is thrown to the shoulder it seems to settle to place automatically, and one can not help looking through the

weighing from  $6\frac{3}{4}$  to  $6\frac{7}{8}$  pounds. But as this added weight is mostly in the barrel, it results in better accuracy than in the old models, because, other things being equal, the rifle with the heaviest and stiffest barrel will be the more accurate.

The bolt handle has been curved to the rear and otherwise reformed so as to bring the ball of the handle immediately above the trigger. This greatly increases the ease and rapidity of operating the rifle. The stock is also to have screw-eyes for sling, which are not shown in the photograph. The dead black finish of the receiver is to be changed to the bright, blue-black finish such as that

We now think that they will most probably quite equal the Springfield with such ammunition.

These models present certain definite advantages as sporting arms. They are about one pound lighter in weight, even in the redesigned model, than any other high intensity modern bolt-action rifle. They have a shotgun safety which makes it possible to fire the first shot very much faster than on the ordinary bolt-action weapon where the turning over of the safety on the sleeve is a rather awkward operation. Also the Lyman sight equipment is not the least of the improvements from a sporting standpoint.

## Pattern Tests of the Ten-Bore

By Chas. Askins

READERS of the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN may expect me to keep them informed as to what is being done in the shotgun line. Right now there is a good deal of activity in the building of both ten-bore shotguns and their ammunition. At this time the Parker Brothers and the Ithaca Gun Company are building ten-bores. Old Winchester ten-gauges are being unearthed, and some of them are rebored for the present powerful ammunition. The Ithaca is now in my hands, and the Parker, as well as the Winchester, will be pretty soon.

The Western Cartridge Company, United States Cartridge Company, Peters Cartridge Company, and the Winchester Repeating Arms Company are making modern progressive powder ammunition for the big guns. All these cartridges are loaded with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces of shot, in various sizes, from BB to sevens, chilled shot, for the most part. It seems probable that the Remington Arms Company will also furnish these powerful shells.

Some of this ammunition has reached me and some of it has not. The Western Cartridge Company ammunition and the Ithaca shotgun came in first and I have made some rough tests with gun and shell, in some measure comparing what gun and load can do as compared with a 12-bore in three-inch shells with  $1\frac{3}{8}$ -ounce loads. I do not propose to make much comment on the results at present, preferring to wait until I have all the cartridges on hand, and all the guns which seem likely to be bored for the big shells. Here is some pattern work under date of February 20, 1926:

Ithaca—Load, Super X ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2); pellets, 148; distance, 20 yards. All shot in 20-inch circle.  
Ithaca—Load, Super X ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2); pellets, 148; distance, 30 yards. All but 2 shot in 30-inch circle.  
Ithaca—Load, Super X ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2); pellets, 148; distance, 40 yards; pattern, 133; circle, 30-inch; percentage, 90.  
Ithaca—Load, Super X ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2); pellets, 148; distance, 50 yards; pattern, 101; circle, 30-inch; percentage, 68.  
Ithaca—Load, Super X ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2); pellets, 148; distance, 60 yards; pattern, 78; circle, 30-inch; percentage, 52.77.

Ithaca—Load, Super X ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2); pellets, 148; distance, 70 yards; pattern, 49; circle, 30-inch; percentage, 33.33.

Ithaca—Load, Super X ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2); pellets, 148; distance, 80 yards; pattern, 33; circle, 30-inch; percentage, 22.45.

THESE patterns were taken one after another, just as they came. Some of them are good, better than average, and some are lower. The forty-yard pattern is above the average and the fifty-yard pattern below. It requires a very good 12-bore, however, to shoot the 50-yard pattern at 40 yards, and when all is said, this just about marks the difference in the two gauges.

### Shotgun Test of March 5, 1926

Ithaca, 10 gauge—Load,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -4; pellets, 220; distance, 60 yards; patterns, 93, 95, 91, 109; average, 97; percentage, 44.  
Twelve bores—Load,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces; 3-inch cases; pellets, 192; distance, 60 yards—  
Smith—Patterns, 58, 58, 90, 68; average, 68.5; percentage, 35.67.  
Fox—Patterns, 77, 65, 82, 70; average, 73.5; percentage, 38.31.  
Parker—Patterns, 73, 71, 88, 63, 77, 72; average, 73; percentage, 38.  
Super X, 10-gauge and 12-gauge, distance and circle and shot charge as above—

(Continued on Page 11)

## What 22's for Pistol Shooting?

The majority of champion pistol shooters use U. S. .22 N. R. A. long-rifle cartridges. This fact has been established not only by the results of past United States Revolver Association matches but by the recent N. R. A. pistol matches, as well.

Of the pistol shooters who entered the N. R. A. Slow Fire Pistol Match, each of the ten high men shot U. S. .22 N. R. A.'s. Moreover, the three highest honors in the Individual Slow Fire Match and first place in both the Individual Gallery Championship and the Gallery Pistol Team Championship went to marksmen who shot these super-accurate .22's.

Why this overwhelming choice of U. S. .22 N. R. A.'s? The answer is obvious! Superior accuracy and dependability.

And how did these champion shooters originally recognize the merits of N. R. A.'s? By testing them along with other small-bore ammunition, even as you might test them.

The shooters of U. S. .22 N. R. A.'s who distinguished themselves in the N. R. A. pistol matches are as follows:

### Slow Fire Tyro Pistol Match

1st—V. W. Wilbur, Springfield, Mass..	561
2nd—T. A. Monahan, Springfield, Mass. ....	553
3rd—D. F. Layton, Brooklyn, N. Y....	538
4th—H. Russ, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	520
5th—H. M. Van Sleem, Gastonia, N. C. ....	513
6th—E. W. Davis, Cambridge, Mass..	512
7th—Geo. F. Ream, Wilkes-Barre, Pa..	512
8th—J. Barlow, Halstead, Kansas....	500
9th—F. L. Frohm, Wilkes-Barre, Pa..	489
10th—Harry Frohm, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. ....	485

### Individual Gallery Pistol Championship

1st—C. J. Moore, Bristol, Conn.....	569
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### Individual Slow Fire Pistol Match

1st—Eric Johnson, Ardmore, Okla...	558
2nd—F. W. Wilbur, Springfield, Mass..	558
3rd—T. A. Monahan, Springfield, Mass. ....	542

### Gallery Pistol Team Championship

1st—Company "H" 160th Infantry, Calif., N. G. Pistol Team, Pasadena, Calif.....	2641
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**United States Cartridge Company**

111 Broadway, New York, N. Y.



**.22 N.R.A.**  
**Long Rifle Cartridges**

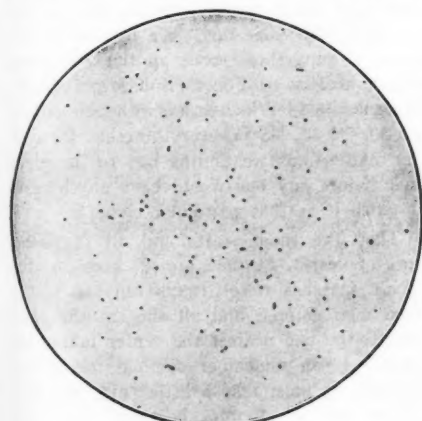
## Pattern Tests of the Ten Bore

(Continued from Page 9)

Ithaca, 10 gauge—Patterns, 109, 104, 104, 114, 103, 124; average, 109 2-3; percentage, 50.  
Smith, 12 gauge—Patterns, 80, 69, 85, 75, 81; average, 78; percentage, 40.6.  
Parker, 12 gauge—Patterns, 72, 72, 78, 83, 75; average, 40.  
Fox, 12 gauge—Patterns, 85, 75, 72, 84, 84; average, 80; percentage, 41.66.

The Smith gun is chambered for 2¾-inch cases and did not shoot shells well that were too heavily loaded.

Other and more conclusive tests of guns and ammunition will be given later. The reader is at liberty to draw his own conclusions from the figures given in the foregoing.



Pattern of Shot

Nothing is omitted and nothing is set down in malice, anyhow. I have purposely omitted the make of cartridge shown in the first table of test of March 5th, since these were experimental loads and will probably be improved.

At present it looks like the big ten-bore and its big load has about ten yards the advantage of a good twelve, and game shooting with gun and load seems to warrant this belief.

\* \* \*

### SEASONS CHANGED ON GAME BIRDS IN KENTUCKY AND SOUTH CAROLINA

TO conform with a law passed by the last session of the Kentucky Legislature and with a resolution adopted recently by the South Carolina Legislature, further amendments to the migratory-bird treaty-act regulations, affecting the open seasons on certain game birds in these states, were adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture and approved by the President on April 22.

In Kentucky the open season on waterfowl (except wood duck, eider ducks, and swans), coots, gallinules, and Wilson snipe or jacksnipe was changed from the period October 1 to January 15 to the period November 1 to January 31; and in South Carolina the open season on mourning doves was changed from the period September 1 to December 15 to the period October 16 to January 31.

## How Do They Get That Way?

By Wilbur Cooper

YOU'VE got to hand it to the criminal. He's progressive. Once upon a time he used a sand-bag, a lead pipe or a loaded billy. But about the time the law-makers outlawed those little knickknacks Mr. Crook had taken to using a one-hand gun.

This writer recently predicted that by the time the Society for Making Virtue Odious had legislated the one-hand gun into oblivion Mr. Gangster would be using rifles and automatic shotguns. But the crook, as usual, was a jump ahead. He hurdled the rifle and shotgun in one leap and equipped himself with a machine gun. He used it recently in Chicago to shoot up a beauty parlor that had refused to pay tribute to some organizers. A day or so later he killed a public prosecutor and two gangland celebrities with it. The beauty parlor shooting, although it imperiled the lives of two women, caused no great stir.

But when William McSwiggen, public prosecutor attached to the office of the State's Attorney of Cook County, was shot down by the machine gunners, while in the company of two underworld poobahs he recently had prosecuted for murder, the powers that direct the forces of law and order let out a roar and the denizens of Chicago's underworld were given a vigorous clawing. The lid was clamped on in Cicero, Chicago's vice suburb; bootleggers, panderers, gunmen, thieves, thugs and bums were gathered into the police net and most of them spent a bad night "watching the goldfish," which is underworld slang for "third degree."

For when the police are given a free hand by the "powers" they make the going tough for the very lads that the day before they didn't dare say "boo" to, lest some unseen force transfer them to posts so far from their homes that they'd have to spend all their waking moments getting to and from their job.

My guess is that more than one three-foot length of rubber hose was worn out while the police were "questioning" the 300 gangsters hauled into stations by the "dragnet" that was cast as soon as the murder of McSwiggen was discovered. And if that didn't make them tell all they knew there was the "water cure."

The general run of citizens declines to believe that prisoners are tortured in police stations, in order to force them to confess. But policemen and newspaper reporters know that it is done—in fact, it is so much a part of the regular routine that it doesn't even excite comment. The newspaper men could, perhaps, start a crusade that would put an end to it. But they have a feeling that, al-

though once in a while an innocent man is sorely abused, about the only real justice the criminal gets nowadays is when the police handle him in a "third degree" session.

When this writer was a cub reporter he was shocked at the manner in which policemen manhandled prisoners to force confessions. But in some twenty years he has reached the conclusion that most of those who get the "third degree" have it coming. The chances are that the gangsters taken in the McSwiggen round-up deserved it and more. And I suspect that the police, after cheering thrice for the opportunity, gave them the whole works.

One wonders, of course, why Mr. McSwiggen was moving around in gangland society. He's dead and can't explain. But the men were powerful in underworld politics—the underworld votes, you know—and his association with them is no more puzzling than the fact that judges, state senators, and other high public officials attended the funeral of one of Chicago's most notorious gangsters.

One wonders, too, why the police were able, on a few hours' notice, to locate the brothels, gaming-houses, and moonshine dives and to round up the denizens of the half-world if they didn't have some previous knowledge of them. An outsider may think the police did an amazing amount of astute detective work in a brief period of time. The insider realizes that the police knew the location of every "joint," as well as the name, age and record of every hanger-on. Usually they knew all about it before it was opened for business. And the cop on the beat had his orders to "lay off" it. If he had sense he did.

I knew an honest young cop who ignored an order of that kind a few years ago. He was working in South Chicago. After he had arrested the owner of a blind-pig they transferred him to the extreme north side. It took him four hours a day to get to and from his station. And the blind-pig reopened the day after he was shifted. The case was quashed in court. And there you are.

So much for the relations of the cop and the crook, and the claim that the police are powerless to cope with crime. The police can cope with crime if they are permitted to do so. But no cop is going to get himself "sent to the woods" by arresting a gunman who happens to be under the protection of some powerful politician, when he knows that as soon as the case gets to court—and probably before—it will be "fixed."

The cop's only "out" is to kill a crook at every opportunity, and it is gradually dawning on policemen everywhere that to do that they must learn to shoot. Here's hoping



they'll all buy Col. Macnab's book on pistol training and learn.

**B**UT why, I am often asked, do the politicians protect crooks? The answer is simple. They need them in their business.

First: Because the decent voter fails to take any particular interest in the primary. He allows the professional politicians to get out the vote and then he and his neighbor are divided about 50-50 on which gang candidate is the better. That puts the decision up to the underworld. The underworld boss who can vote his own crowd and keep the other crowd from voting is victor. So at every election in a great city we have the spectacle of gunmen tearing from polling place to polling place and shooting up the landscape. Small towns, of course, are not bothered in this fashion. But neither are they bothered with crime except what seeps in from the big city. The American crime problem is in its great cities.

Second: Because the crowd that can control the bootleg and vice concession of a great city will make millions. Decent men are not engaged in beer-running, booze, running, blind-pig keeping and the like. To recruit a rum-running crew you must go to the half-world. To maintain such an organization you must protect its members. And of course you must protect the blind-pigs, disorderly houses and gambling joints that buy your illicit wares. And the managers of these protect their hangers-on. A cop pinches "Snuffy the Coke" for robbing a boob. "Snuffy" promptly pages the manager of the joint he favors with his patronage. If the manager hasn't the drag necessary to do business with the district police commander he sees his own immediate boss. If the boss isn't strong enough he passes the request up. Finally, by a series of relays it gets to a prominent citizen with offices in a skyscraper. He picks up the phone and tells the police commander to "spring" "Snuffy." "Snuffy" is turned out and thumbs his nose at the cop who pinched him.

This "protection" system has unbelievable ramifications. It started as a necessary sideline to vice-graft, but it has developed to a point where the "protectors" actually share in the loot of burglaries and holdups.

For instance, in a great mid-west city there is an organization which maintains a staff of salesmen throughout the country. Its office force and system are as efficient as those of any great mercantile firm in the country. It buys enough merchandise to give it a reputable appearance, yet I happen to know that 60 per cent of its orders are filled with stolen merchandise. It is the clearing house for those genial crooks who drive up to a fur store, or a clothing store, with a truck and clean it out.

Another example: A few years ago a bank in a northwestern city was robbed. Part of

## "An Old-Time Shooting Match"

**S**AY, men, how would you all like to go to one more old-time shooting match, just like your Dad used to take you to on Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years? You remember, don't you? Get up about 7:00 A. M. and see your Dad fussing with "Old Betsy," cleaning her out, and aiming her out the window at various objects, to try his steadiness, and talking to her just as though she was his boon companion. Well, then, you get your breakfast and Dad says, "Come on, boys, let's get started," and away you go to either street car or train. I guess now it would be the automobile. I always used train or street car those days. When you arrive you find the same bunch there that had been there the year before, because they used to always come out to those matches, every one of them, all good sports, all red-blooded Americans and all would have a cheery good-morning for you and pat you on the shoulder or wink at you or do something to warm your blood up and make you feel you were one of them.

Most interesting to me were the crates of chickens, ducks and last, but not least, the

the loot consisted of \$125,000 in liberty bonds. The burglar, after the robbery, fled to a big mid-west city. The northwestern city sought to extradite him. To avoid it he allowed himself to be caught robbing a small store—imagine a top-hole bank robber bothering with a one-horse grocery—and was held for trial in the state where he had "protection." In the meantime there was a row over the division of the loot. The burglar refused to meet the terms of his "protectors," so he got the limit for the store job.

But he did divide part of the spoils. While investigating the case I found some of the liberty bonds offered by a reputable broker. Checking back, I found that he had received them from one of the most powerful political leaders of that city, who, I happened to know, was one of the burglar's protectors. I printed the story. It created a mild sensation. But the politician made a gesture of pained, not to say shocked, surprise that anybody should impose on him by selling him \$50,000 worth of stolen bonds.

He turned them back to the bank without batting an eye, but never explained how he came by them—at least, his explanation wasn't very convincing. If anybody had found an ordinary citizen with four dollars' worth of stolen stuff we'd be explaining yet.

All of which, of course, doesn't solve the mystery of why Prosecutor McSwiggen was killed.

But it may give some idea of the conditions that get crooks into the frame of mind which impels them to shoot down a public prosecutor with apparently no fear of unpleasant consequences.

good old turkey gobblers, two or three crates of them, and, oh boys, how I would feast my eyes on those turkeys and pick out what I would think was the largest one in the crates.

We used to nearly always shoot 50 yards, at a standard 2-inch bullseye. As a boy I would keep my eyes and ears open and sidle up to all the shooters and look their guns over and in my own mind, from what they said and from the kind of guns they had, would say to myself who was the best shot there and watch certain ones all day just to see how they came out. We had an assortment of guns those days, all the way from muzzle-loaders to Popes, Bullards, Ballard, Stevens, .38-56 Winchesters, with bolt action, .25-20, .32-20, .38-55, everything but .22 caliber, and it was we Smiths had to introduce that before any one would have anything to do with it at that particular club.

Then the shoot starts and all friendship sort of ceases, as they are all keen to win. These matches were always run ten to fifteen men entered and all shot at the same target, the one nearest the center taking the prize. I can remember one old fellow who thought he must take a little "nip" out of a bottle ever so often or he could not shoot, so, boy like, I would watch him and when he trotted out of the club house I would follow him and watch him take his "nip" and trot back in again and go to shooting.

There were two of us boys at home and Dad was the gun crank, but he always said a crowd of men around made him nervous, so we did not get many prizes till my brother and I got a little older and started to shoot at matches ourselves. My brother finally bought a fine Walnut Hill Model .22 caliber Stevens target rifle, with set trigger, peep sight, wind gauge, cheek piece, fancy butt plate and all—paid \$45.00 for it, as I recall—and then we started out on our own hook and the old Dad would sit at home and watch at the windows for our return to see what we had. We seldom disappointed him, as we usually would get between us six or eight turkeys or chickens, whichever the prizes happened to be at that match.

I am now a Dad myself and trying to introduce these old-fashion matches in a new rifle club in South Philadelphia. This club is called the Interboro Rifle Club and we have joined the N. R. A. and have already held three such shoots and are planning for a fourth the last of this month. They are taking very well and every one is crazy about them so far, if the interest just keeps up, and I believe it will, for, as I said at the beginning of this article, "Who would not want to go to an old-time shooting match?"

G. C. SMITH,

Secretary, Interboro Rifle Club,  
201 Urban Ave., Norwood, Del. Co., Pa.

# The Spencer Repeating Rifle

By L. D. Satterlee

## PART II—(Conclusion)

### CLASS 4

As stated previously, the Spencer Company started to sell to the civilian trade beginning about November, 1866. The catalog shows the ammunition is the "No. 52," so the .56-52 evidently dates from the fall of 1866. The Spencer Company never recommended the .56-50 for their guns. As the October, 1865 catalog does not mention the new models, it is evident that the .56-52 ammunition is not a left over from the Civil War. Although the UMC bought up the machinery of Leet, and of Crittenden & Tibbals, there must have been other factories still in operation which may have made the .56-52 for the Spencer Company from 1866 to 1869. But as the UMC itself was making ammunition about 1867, it seems strange that there should be a question as to the correct bore or model for the .56-52. Bannerman states they used to have some of this old No. 52 ammunition and I wish to ask if anyone has a label from a box of it?

### CLASS 5

As stated previously, the Spencer Company returned to the six groove rifling formerly used in Civil War days, and in order to avoid confusion, stamped the guns M. 1865, "M. 1867" and "N. M." There may be another Spencer catalog issued in October, 1868, the advertising in the *Army and Navy Journal* stopped October 31, 1868. Probably from then on there was nothing much doing in the Spencer plant, and in the *Scientific American* for September 18 and 25, 1869, there appears an advertisement of the auction sale which was to be held on September 28. Quite an account of the sale is reported in the *Boston Post* the next day, as follows:

(From *Boston Post*, Sept. 29, 1869)

#### SPENCER REPEATING RIFLE WORKS DISPOSED OF

TOTAL PROCEEDS \$138,000

The Spencer Repeating Rifle Company is a corporation which is largely known, and which, until recently, has manufactured a large number of their celebrated rifles, which have always found a ready sale. As a gun and rifle Manufactory their works are the largest in the States, if not in the World, the only larger one in this country being the Colt Rifle Manufactory in Connecticut. Owing to some change, however, they were a short time discontinued, and the room occupied by them being wanted, it was decided to sell the tools, machinery, etc. at auction. Over 2,500 catalogues were circulated, two thousand of them being distributed among the principal cities, in their large machine shops. This fact, and the well-known quality of the machinery had the effect of bringing together one of the largest and most ready set of buyers ever assembled in this city. There were representatives of New York, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Montreal and Quebec, and in fact most of the large cities within a radius of five or six hundred miles, making a total of over 1,500 that were present. The sale took place at the Armory in Chickering's Building, corner Tremont and Camden Streets, and in Dexter's Building on Lenox Street Mr. Samuel

Hatch being the auctioneer and commencing at 10 o'clock. The articles sold readily, and, as a general thing, brought good prices, the machinery being of a new pattern, and adapted for other branches besides the use made of it. Prominent among these may be noticed the 160 or 170 milling machines, nearly new, and from the most approved makers, which sold for \$165 to \$235, according to size; planers ditto, from \$250 to \$600; engine lathes from \$225 to \$325; 8 spindle upright drills sold for \$650; Norway iron at 6½¢. The steam engine 60-horse power Tufts, brought \$3,500. The prices realized are stated by Mr. Hatch to be the best ever obtained by him on a like sale; the buyers were numerous; Wilson & Wheeler, Smith & Lovell, Atlantic Works, Yale Lock Co., and other well known firms buying heavily, and also the houses from New York, Philadelphia, and other cities mentioned above. The total amount of the sale is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$138,000.

There were over 450 numbers in the Catalogue, and these were all finished at 3 o'clock. Mr. Hatch then appeared as fresh as ever, and apparently able to perform another feat of the same kind; in fact, he stated he would find pleasure in it if the buyers were so ready to bid as they had been during the day.

The buildings are both to be used by Chickering & Son for their extensive and fast increasing piano-forte manufactory.

### SOME HISTORY

It will be interesting to find out who got the first 7,500 rifles delivered, as the first carbines were not delivered until October 3, 1863. Just about this time, the 5th Michigan Cavalry was being organized at Grand Rapids under command of J. T. Copeland, being patterned somewhat after the Mississippi Rifles. These troops arrived in Washington in January, 1863 and were encamped on Capitol Hill. This regiment was probably the first to get Spencers. By March 4, 1863, Copeland reported that one half of the 6th Michigan was also armed with the Spencer. After a year in service the rifles were turned in for the carbines. The 7th Michigan Cavalry was armed with Burnside carbines, and it was not until the beginning of the Wilderness Campaign on May 4, 1864 when they broke up their Burnside and were issued Spencers.

The Michigan Cavalry Brigade, consisting of the 1st, 5th, 6th and 7th Michigan, and Capt. Pennington's Battery of U. S. Regular Artillery, was brigaded at Fairfax Court House in the early part of 1863, and when it was certain that Lee was starting on his invasion of the North, the Michigan Cavalry Brigade was sent out to look for him. Crossing the Potomac at Edwards Ferry on June 25th, the 1st Michigan was sent to Harpers Ferry the 7th up to Sharpsburg, while the 5th and 6th under command of J. T. Copeland went up to Gettysburg arriving there on Sunday, June 28, 1863. Finding they were between two corps of Lee's Army, they encamped for the night, sending a courier back to Frederick for orders. On the morning of June 29,

the courier brought back astonishing news. Hooker had been relieved of the command of the Army of the Potomac, and Meade appointed in his stead. Copeland was relieved of the command of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade and Custer appointed. The various regiments were recalled to Hanover where Custer took charge. Gen. Russell A. Alger, afterwards Secretary of War under McKinley, was made Colonel of the 5th. At the battles of Gettysburg this brigade was employed on the right of the Union Army guarding the stores, and it was here that Jeb Stuart got the first taste of Spencer bullets.

Spencer rifles also obtained distinction in the West. Colonel Wilder was sent out to Tennessee in 1862 to organize a brigade for the purpose of cleaning out the guerrillas in that section. Arriving at Murfreesboro he unfolded a plan to General Rosecranz whereby he could mount his brigade at the expense of the countryside. He also was anxious to obtain repeaters. Sawyer in his "Our Rifles" has stated that Wilder's men were armed with Henry rifles, but this is not true. However, the explanation is not hard to find. It seems that W. C. Dodge, a patent examiner in Washington, was keenly interested in breech loaders. In 1863 he circulated a "Memorial to the Secretary of War." In 1864 he issued a revised edition of it, calling it "Breech-loaders vs. Muzzleloaders," in which he quotes Colonel Wilder's statements on repeating rifles. The Henry catalog of 1865 quotes Dodge's pamphlet, and it is probable that Mr. Sawyer seeing the 1869 catalog, got a little mixed up. It seems that Colonel Wilder tried to get Henry rifles first, as on March 20, 1863 he wrote to the New Haven Arms Company and asked a price for 900 of them, stating that two regiments of his command were now mounted and would pay for them out of their own pockets, but stating that the soldiers were only getting \$13 a month, he hoped the price would not be too high. It is probable the New Haven Arms Company could not make delivery, and as Mr. Spencer himself was traveling around in the West showing his new gun, Wilder's Brigade obtained Spencers instead. His brigade consisted of the 17th and 72nd Indiana Infantry, the 92nd, 98th and 123rd Regiment Illinois Infantry, and the 18th Indiana Independent Battery. The 72nd Indiana received their Spencers on May 15, 1863. At the battle of Hoover's Gap, June 24, 1863, the Confederates got a large dose of Spencer bullets.

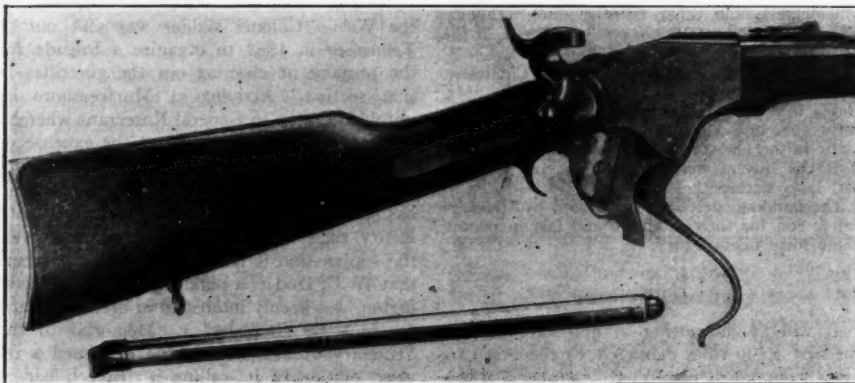
The 8th Michigan Cavalry, operating in Kentucky, were armed with part of these 7,500 rifles. They left Covington, Kentucky, June 1, 1863, to chase Morgan.

About one hundred men of Capt. G. M. Barber's Company of 197th Ohio Sharpshooters had Spencers. Captain Barber wrote





Spencers, reading from top to bottom: Original Spencer, calibre .52, "R. S. Lawrence Rear Sight;" Spencer rifle made in both .52 and .50 calibers; Spencer rifle made by Burnside Co., 32½ in. barrel, 2 bands and ramrod, calibre .50, sold by Wm. Read & Sons; Spencer Carbine, illustration serves for both old and new models. The old model had a 22 inch barrel, no cutoff and the forestock was about an inch longer than in the new model.



Spencer, showing magazine removed from stock.

a manual of arms for the Spencer, a copy of which is in the Library of Congress.

After the carbines started coming in, some of the rifles were turned in, and they are afterwards found in other States. The U. S. obtained only 11,471 of the rifles, as it was not the policy to use breech loaders in the Infantry.

Anyway the Michigan Cavalry Brigade was pretty reckless at times during the War, but a part of it was due to the use of Spencer repeaters. Men in other States and in the South were just as brave and reckless.

Well, it's a great story. Custer might have been alive today if he had been armed with Spencers at the battle of the Little Big Horn, instead of single shot Springfields.

After all is said and done, the Spencer is now obsolete, and the ammunition companies do not make the ammunition any more. And maybe it doesn't matter whether the ammunition was made the right size or not, or whether anybody knows what was right. But it was such a funny proposition, that I felt it was up to me to do the job right once for all, because nobody else under the sun would endeavor to try to solve the problem.

The only fly in the ointment is that in June, 1868 an inventory showed that the United States had 40,051 Spencer carbines calibre .50 in the arsenals and in the hands

of the troops, whereas according to my figures only 33,500 were ever obtained of this caliber.

During the Franco-Prussian War Spencer cartridges of both calibers were sent over to France. In some cases the French had to shave off the balls in order to make them fit in the guns.

The account in the *Scientific American* mentions the target practice Spencer had with President Lincoln in 1863. It is stated the pine board target is now at Springfield, Illinois. There are several errors in this article. The Navy ordered 700 rifles instead of 1,000, and they were delivered in December, 1862 at the same time that the Army began receiving theirs, and not "many months before any order could be secured from the War Department." Applesauce! The article also states the gun contained six .50 caliber cartridges. Really should be seven .52 caliber. The government did not purchase 200,000 Spencers before the close of the war, only about 94,000 carbines and 12,000 rifles and about 50,000 of the carbines were delivered after Lee's surrender, leaving about 46,000 carbines that might have been used in the Civil War. Figuring back from the change in caliber, I am of the opinion that only those carbines of the old model below Serial No. 40,000 or no number at all,

(Continued on Page 21)

## A .45 Colt Speed Bullet

By F. C. Ness

**M**ORE power to the shooters of our country. We deserve it and need it. We are continually seeking more power in our guns and ammunition. This is evidenced in the present cry for a small-game .22 cal. Magnum gun and cartridge, in the development of super-12-gauge shotguns and du Pont Oval, in the ultra-high-speed sporting rifle ammunition, and in the trend toward the older heavy-bulleted big bores, however, retaining superior velocities originally developed with lighter bullets. Sometimes, in our craze for power, we go beyond the requirements of the case. I want all the smash I can cram into my handguns, although they are used to punch nothing but paper.

It is not a question of judgment or common sense. I know better, but I do not know why I follow this power fad earnestly and purposely and then proceed to waste it on pulp and print. Target shooting in a gameless, crimeless, settled community sums up my shooting environment; but I pass up the cheaper .22, the more accurate .38 Special, the more convenient .32, and certainly better adapted .44 for the heaviest bullet and charge obtainable—the .45 Colt. The 1,100-foot-second velocity of the Luger and Mauser was alluring, but the .30 cal. 93-grain and 125-grain bullets were too small and light. For what? Just opinion, that's all. The same with the .38 Colt Auto. Although better, the 130-grain bullet was too little, and too hard to make much of the 1,100 f.s. velocity; neither did the stiff and straight gun, to which it was adapted, suit.

This left the .38 and .44 Winchester cartridges besides those in the .45 caliber class. But these two are really rifle fodder and not ideal in the revolver. There has been much ballyho by all of us about the superior ballistics of the .38-40, chiefly on account of the weak factory loading of the .45 Colt. However, the old Peacemaker can be loaded up to deliver the goods with its ancient dispatch and, in some instances, is. I did fall for the .38 W. C. F. enough to try it, but never could take to it like the .45. I used the same Colt S. A. 7½-inch gun for both, and got noticeably more accurate results with the .45, and my Peacemaker handloads developed more punch than the .38 Winchester store cartridges.

**T**HE .45 A. C. P. is the best balanced cartridge of all, considering the modern demand for smokeless powder. It is up next to the .44-40 and .38-40 in punch and on top in accuracy. I don't care particularly for the two good Colt and S. & W. revolvers to which it has been adapted, but in the 1911 pistol I've obtained wonderful results, not only with commercial ammunition, but with war stuff and alloy-bullet handloads, which are not supposed to work the automatic mechanism properly. I intend to write up my experience with this gun in a separate paper, so I will not say much, except that I



should not wish for a more accurate or reliable gun.

My second Peacemaker had a star-gauged 7½-inch barrel. I filed the sight to shoot into the "ten-ring" at twenty yards, and honed the lock to a smooth 2½-lb. pull. I never expect to have a finer plaything, and I did not know what a remarkably accurate gun I owned until after I had blown it up with an overcharge of "dense" and a bullet seated too deep. None of my later .45 single actions have given me the results I secured offhand with this gun; not even from rest. I have stood on my hind legs and placed all of a string in the Standard American "black," with more "tens" and "nines" than "eights." Now I seldom get groups that small. They never are so well centered. With guns as with people, we don't appreciate them until they are gone.

Figuring from this gun, the New Service Target Model should be capable of "possibles" in the hands of an expert. I would like to own one of these \$50.00 guns just for long-range experiments and accuracy tests from rest. But I do not favor frills on a .45, which to me is the symbol of ruggedness. I think the regular N. S. Model with fixed sights upholds the spirit of the .45 Colt caliber much truer. Even this model has demonstrated its dependability on the target range in official competition by making a world's record.

As I now see it, the question of comparative reliability does not enter. Some other factor deciding, I'd take a S. & W. or Colt war model or the Service Pistol or the New Service or the Single Action—one as willingly as the other—as far as reliability is concerned. I have never had a bit of serious trouble with my Colt pistol in hundreds and thousands of rounds, but it might not be true did I live or use it in a dust-choked region. The convenient side-swing N. S. is heavy and strongly built and solidly locked, but the best of the double actions will at times balk as will an automatic.

The S. A. would perhaps make the best desert gun, or when far from gun shops. It is true the flat springs break easily (I have broken several of them), but this gun refuses to quit shooting even when reduced to its lowest common denominator. When a part breaks or is lost or damaged in the S. A. it makes the gun that much less convenient, but it still remains a gun in every sense of the word.

That is why I stick more or less faithfully and constantly to the Peacemaker. I don't have to meet such rugged conditions, but it is a pleasure to know that, "IF"—the gun I am regularly shooting will make good, should such conditions ever arise to give it a more severe test than the paper-punching it is subjected to. Hence, also, my desire for loads with plenty of power.

**A**BOUT the most powerful factory load at present obtainable is the Remington UMC, loaded with 40 grains of black powder that imparts to the 250-grain bullet a velocity at the muzzle of 900 ft. seconds and

develops a muzzle energy of 460 ft. pounds. This is substantially the same line of ballistics as was accredited to the original .45 Colt load, that the old-timers' claim to have seen plow through 8 x 8-inch pine timbers and kill on the other sides. Up to the time of my own experiments, about the only smokeless load (hand load) that approaches these ballistics was given out by Ashley Haines—15 grains weight du Pont S. R. Powder No. 80 of lot No. 2, and a 250-grain bullet, giving 925 f. s. and 474 ft. pounds. I do not doubt that it has been loaded nor that it could be with safety when strict attention is paid to the proper amount of air-space between the bullet-base and the powder, but I, for one, should hesitate about compounding such a depth bomb without the accurate air-space seating knowledge.

The only trouble with the powerful factory load above lies in the propellant used. In every .45 I have shot, and whether I use King's Semi-smokeless, Nublend, or honest-to-goodness black powder, the gun gums up so badly after a few rounds that the shooting is affected and the caked fouling resists every cleaning measure except soldering acid or Crystal Cleaner. Deliver us from all such evil. In handloading I have found it entirely practical to prime black powder or semi-black with 2 to 4 grains of bulk smokeless, which blows out the carbon residue clean as a whistle each shot. This is perhaps the best way out in a cartridge designed large and roomy for black powder.

The only factory-made *smokeless* load powerful enough to lift it out of the peewee class is made by the Western Cartridge Company. In this load the 255-grain bullet used develops more energy than the .38-40—Ballistics: 825 ft. seconds, 395 ft. pounds. The next step, of course, is handloading. The account of my experiments with different brands of smokeless and several bullets was published in the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN about a year and a half ago.

From my experiments I learned two major truths—the importance of ignition in reduced or squibb loads, and the vital importance of proper seating-depth in heavy loads. With light bullets, especially the 144-grain Collar Button (Ideal), stronger primers, like the No. 8½, had to be used for a uniform ignition so as to secure consistent accuracy. The other was *more* important because an element of real danger was involved, for, with standard and extreme charges of powder and full-length heavy bullets, the seating-depth should never extend below the cannelure or bullet-crease in the case. I have pressures raised to over 30,000 pounds in two separate instances and a blown-up Peacemaker to attest to this.

**M**Y favorite bullet was the regular old .45 Colt Ideal bullet, No. 454,190, cast in an Express mold, making it hollow-point and bringing the weight down to 235 grains, instead of 255 grains. With it I got the best 50-yard accuracy. With 4.9, 4.5 and 5.7 grains weight of Hercules Bullseye I got 3-

inch and 3¼-inch groups from "over-knee" and "back-rest." I used as much as 7.7 grains weight without spoiling the accuracy or undue pressure signs. The velocity must have been over 900 ft. seconds. For a field load I used 27½ grains King's Semi- and a 2-grain Schuetzen primer. With this load I got a 1 9-16-inch group at 20-yards from rest.

It seemed to have a very flat trajectory at ranges beyond 50 yards, and I shot it up to 125 yards. This is its record on one 10-quart pail shooting over the knee, from sitting: 50 yards up to 70 yards, point-blank; two shots at 70 yards, point-blank; 75 yard, 5-inch drop, hit the pail; 125 yards, 10-inch drop, aiming at top-edge hit the bottom of pail. I would judge I was getting 950 foot seconds at least all, though it seems wrong.

Perhaps with the proper loading of du Pont No. 80 or Pistol No. 5, I could have developed a satisfactory long-range load with this bullet, but I began to monkey with Schuetzen, Pistol No. 3, and the 253-grain Bond Wadcutter, and my troubles shortly commenced. You see, most of my shooting was on paper and the Ideal Hollow-Point wouldn't make a clean perforation on thin or poorly supported paper. Also the heavy Bond Wadcutter was more of a He-bullet, and I wanted *POWER*.

I got some dandy groups with 25 grains Schuetzen and the 253-grain seated one band out. Then I worked up to 8.5 Pistol No. 3 and blew up the gun. Tests at the Brandywine Laboratory showed I was getting from 25,500 to 30,400 and 31,600 pounds of pressure, and the pressure limit of the Peacemaker is 15,000 pounds. Their further testing with No. 3 and with No. 5 pistol powders showed that 6.5 grains was all that could be recommended with the 253-grain Bond to keep the pressures normal, and 7 grains weight was placed as the limit to secure 848 f. s. muzzle velocity.

The trouble with this bullet is its great seating-depth, which brings its base below the bullet-crease in the cartridge case and cuts down the air space over the powder—a dangerous practice with dense smokeless. It has an extreme depth of .5468 inches; its regular seating-depth when crimped in the beveled shoulder is .5156 inches, which the du Pont Laboratory gives as .525-inch. The regular seating provision length of the .45 Colt case is .4218 inches from case-mouth to bullet-cannelure. Both the Ideal bullet and my new Peacemaker bullet have the regular correct seating-depth of .4218 inches.

When the 253-grain Bond Wadcutter is seated one band out to secure more air-space it can be given a velocity of 866 ft. seconds at safe pressures with 11.7 grains weight of du Pont No. 80 and 932 f. s. with 8.5 grains weight Pistol No. 5. But when seated to the normal crimping depth in the case, these charges give respectively 27,330 pounds mean, and 31,000 pounds mean. All a matter of air space secured by proper seating-depth. Just .15-inch increase in the nor-

mal seating-depth increased the pressures as much as 8,000 pounds per square inch!

I NOW had developed smokeless loads equaling the original .45 Colt black powder load in powder, with 420 and 487 ft. pounds of energy respectively, and safe, too, when seated one band out. However, I wanted a fool-proof bullet, and the only thing left was to design one. In this I had the co-operation of the Modern-Bond people, who cut the cherry and made up the molds, which they now have in stock.

I wanted a bullet for long-range target work; therefore, it had to be a wadcutter and accurate, and I would get power by increasing its speed possibilities. I decided upon about 240 grains weight and 1,000 f.s. velocity. In order to take off weight and resistance while retaining the regular seating-depth of .4218-inch, there are only three recourses—hollow the point as in the Ideal, remove the nose as in the new Belding & Mull .45 Colt bullets, or make the base hollow. I wanted a nose and wanted the bullet long for accuracy, so I resorted to the hollow-base and got a weight of 235 grains. The bullet has a flat-nosed ogive, a good broad wad-cutting shoulder, a regular beveled crimping groove with a shoulder for shell lip, three narrow bearing bands, two grease grooves, and a broad bottom band, and the bottom band is tapered to .451 inches at the base to facilitate starting in the case mouth in reloading. It is one of the easiest bullets to handload.

Among the "old-timers" there is a demand for a .45 Colt bullet like the original black powder missile, except that only one groove be provided for lubrication. When they see my long wad-cutting hollow-base Peacemaker bullet, they will no doubt call it a "freak." But what of it? I have found what I wanted. There is the lightened weight, 235-grain for speed, the perfect wad-cutting for target, the great bearing surface and extreme length (longer than any other .45 Colt bullet) for range and accuracy, and the tapered broad base-band for easy, accurate handloading.

The dimensions of the finished bullet run as follows:

The 235-grain Ness-Wadcutter, Bond No. 454760.

Length of bullet.....	.7600 inch
Length of point.....	.2445 inch
Width top-band .....	.0781 inch
Width bottom-band .....	.1718 inch
Diameter top-band .....	.454 inch
Diameter bottom-band .....	.454 inch
Diameter base edge.....	.451 inch

ON anything pertaining to the big six-guns Ashley Haines' judgment and opinions are eminently worth-while, so I sent him a sample of my new bullet, and he wrote back that for the purpose for which it was designed it was well nigh perfect, and he would expect very fine groupings with the 235-grain Ness Wadcutter.



I only wish I had my old accurate test gun, or a new Service Target Model to give the bullet a good try-out. However, in the old 5½-inch and 7½-inch Peacemakers in which I have so far tried it, up to 150 feet, it has fulfilled every expectation. In similar loads of different pistol powders compared with other light bullets of approximately the same weight, like the 235-grain Ideal, and the 240-grain Belding & Mull, it has shown superior grouping worth, and cuts a clean hole in paper that the Bond Wadcutter tears.

In a recent tryout with the two guns and several bullets, it was the only hand load that group as fine as Western smokeless and Nubend.

As to power it leaves little to be desired. The du Pont Brandywine Laboratory reports: "The cartridges with the 235-grain Ness Wadcutter, No. C454760, gave ballistic results that show a fine relation between velocity and pressure, as will be noted in the enclosed tabulation. The seating of this bullet with the base 0.1-inch below the cannellure of the shell apparently does not influence the pressure to any great extent."

And look at the speed and power with 13,000 pounds mean pressure:

13.7 grs. No. 80...	1116 f.s. veloc.	651 ft. lbs. energy
9.0 grs. No. 5...	1023 f.s. veloc.	546 ft. lbs. energy

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# Cheap Reloads for the 250-3000

By Clifford Littlechild

At various times I have noticed inquiries in the Dope Bag on the subject of cheap reloads for the 250-3000, using jacketed bullets. It seems to be a common trait to want to shoot as much as possible, at the same time spending as little as possible on ammunition. From this standpoint \$2.70 per hundred for the regular 250-jacketed bullets doesn't look very good to a lot of reloaders, including myself.

Of course the cheap ammunition problem can be solved by the use of cast bullets, but they do not appeal to me for a number of reasons—they are more bother to load, I am too lazy to cast them, and I have never been able to get really good accuracy out of cast bullets in the 250. Then, too, I like to use full loads quite a bit for coyotes, etc., and for these the jacketed bullets are a necessity. However, there are a number of jacketed bullets that will work in this gun which are much cheaper, among them the various 25-20 bullets and the 117-grain bullets made for the 25-35, which all sell at ninety cents per hundred.

I have shot only a few of the 117-grain bullets, so can offer no definite first-hand information as to how they will perform. Du Pont lists the following loads for this bullet:

37.4 grains I.M.R. No. 15½ Velocity 2680 f.s.  
35.5 grains I.M.R. No. 18 Velocity 2670 f.s.

These charges should be reduced a couple of grains for lever-action rifles. I am also informed that 37 grains of No. 15 is very satisfactory and gives about the same results as the 37.4 grains of No. 15½. What little work I have done with this bullet was with about 30 grains of some pyro powder salvaged from some war-time ammunition. I knew nothing about this powder, so acted pretty carefully. This load seemed to shoot fairly well, although I never tried it from a good rest to see what it would do. I would guess the velocity to be between 2300 and 2400 f.s. The 117-grain bullets that I had (Westerns) measured .256-inch. I think these bullets would not be suitable for reduced loads in the rather slow twist of the 250-3000.

For the sort of shooting I was doing I had no need for a heavy bullet, so I used the 86-grain 25-20 bullets quite a lot. In all the loads I tried with this bullet I got the best results by seating the bullet so it just touched the rifling, which in my gun meant seating them with about 5/32-inch of the bullet inside the case. I have heard it stated at different times that this bullet is inaccurate at over 2000 f.s. But with the loads I used there seemed to be very little difference in the accuracy at about 1500 f.s. and at considerably over 2000. I have used the following loads with this bullet: 12 grains No. 80 . . . . Velocity about 1500 f.s. 27 grains I.M.R. No. 16 Velocity unknown, but

I would guess it at around 2400 f.s.

I have also used 27 grains of the salvaged war-time powder mentioned in the preceding

paragraph. All these loads shot about the same—about 1¾-inch groups at 50 yards, with an occasional smaller one. Of course this is not gilt-edged accuracy, but it is good enough for most hunting purposes. I measured the powder in all these loads, and just resized the necks of the shells (did not expand them), so I think if carefully loaded they would do quite a little better. These bullets measure .257-inch in diameter. Their biggest disadvantage is that they will not work any too well through the magazine of the Savage bolt action I have. I have not tried them in a lever action.

When the Remington 110-grain 2500 f.s. Springfield load came out, I began dreaming about a similar load for the 250 with the 60-grain 25-20 Hi-Speed bullet. I was not able to get any of these bullets till about a year ago, but as soon as I got a supply, I did quite a little shooting with them, and wrote up the results in an article that appeared in the Dope Bag. Forty grains of I. M. R. No. 16 gave fine accuracy and an estimated velocity of 3400 f.s. This load gave fully as good accuracy as the regular factory loads, gave no metal fouling, and the pressure was very moderate. For the kind of shooting I do, this is my favorite full load for the 250. It is a dream for running jack rabbits and coyotes. Of course, when a jack is hit with this load, he is "plumb ruind," but that doesn't make any difference as they are no good to eat, on account of so many of them having boils. As for coyotes a load is needed that just breaks them open or you don't get them. They will take more killing for their size than anything I know of. These 60-grain loads worked perfectly through the magazine. The bullets measured .257. I loaded them with crimping groove about one-sixteenth of an inch out of the shell. They can not be loaded so as to touch the lands and still leave much of the bullet in the case, but with the heavy load it seemed to have no bad effect on the accuracy. I had rather poor results with this bullet in reduced loads, and laid it to the fact that the bullet did not touch the lands. Du Pont says that 42.6 grains of I.M.R. No. 17½ will give 3466 f.s. with this bullet. This load I have not tried.

Just recently I was looking through my new Belding and Mull handbook, and ran across the 87-grain 25-35 Hi-Speed bullet listed at ninety cents per hundred, so I ordered a supply. When they arrived I examined them closely, and found them almost identical with the regular 87-grain Remington 250-3000 bullets, even in the thickness of the jackets, except for the diameter, which was only .255-inch. This will probably prevent them from giving quite as good accuracy as the standard 250 bullets. They are nearly the same shape as the regular bullets, and cartridges loaded with them work perfectly through the maga-

zine. I have shot only a few of them so far, so I can say nothing definite as to results. I shot a few the other day loaded with 39 grains of No. 16 (velocity about 3250 f.s.), to see how they would perform at high velocity. Five shots sitting, at 50 yards, gave a group measuring a little over two inches, not counting a badly pulled shot. Of course this does not represent the accuracy of the load. This load of 39 grains of No. 16 is a little heavy for anything but new cases. I expect to do a lot of work with this bullet in the near future with various loads.

Summing it all up there is no question but that where they can be afforded, or for a hunting trip where the cost of the ammunition is a small fraction of the expense, the regular \$2.70 per hundred bullets are the most desirable (with the exception of the 60-grain Hi-Speed bullet, which is in a class by itself for "varmints," but useless for larger game). However, the most of us who reload for the 250 will not use it on game larger than coyotes, and for impromptu target shooting at rocks, etc., and for this work the cheaper bullets will do the business, and there will be a little money left over to buy gas for the "Lizzie."

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## DIRECTOR OF CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP

Conducted by Lt.-Col. G. C. Shaw

### KRAG AMMUNITION AVAILABLE

A SUPPLY of new ammunition for the Krag rifle and carbine has just been manufactured by the Ordnance Department for sale to N. R. A. members. This is new ammunition, loaded with 9 degree boat-tail bullet, muzzle velocity about 2,000 f. s. These cartridges are packed in cartons of 20 rounds, 75 cartons or 1,500 rounds to the case. Price per case, \$63.72; price per carton, 85 cents. Packing charges of 50 cents on 300 rounds or less, and 75 cents on more than 300 rounds and less than a case. No packing charge on case lots. All shipments will be made from Frankford Arsenal, Pennsylvania. Orders sent to D. C. M. will be attended to promptly.

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### QUALIFICATION REPORTS

SOME of the clubs are not complying with requirements exactly when forwarding their reports of qualification for rifle and pistol firing. They have been failing to give the full name of the firer and his complete address. Compliance with this requirement is necessary for the proper identification of the firer in the records of this office.

The necessity for this requirement should be apparent. There are few men whose names and initials are not duplicated. There are many instances of this in our files. When the first names as well as the last are given, these duplications are reduced in number. When the complete name is given, there are practically no duplications. This office wants to give each man credit for his shooting and record it so that he may be issued the appropriate requalification bars when he is entitled to them.

The record of each individual is kept upon a separate card. On that is recorded the name, address, and all qualifications. When the name is not complete, there is the danger that the wrong man may be credited for something that he did not do, and also that the correct man will not be given credit for his work. Quite a few instances of this have been found among the old records. It is with a view of preventing this in the future that all secretaries are requested to enter the firer's complete name and address. If this is done carefully much time will be saved, and the firers will receive the insignia to which entitled promptly.

### PROPERTY RECORD CARDS

QUITE a few clubs have asked for and received the cards that are being issued for keeping a record of the club property. It is believed that they will be found very useful in helping to keep the records straight. They will be mailed to all that apply for them, but unless you ask, this office can not know whether they are wanted. If you think that you may have any use for these cards, ask for them. If you do not want to use them after you receive them, throw them away.

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### PROPERTY RETURNS

ABOUT ten per cent of the clubs have failed to send in the Annual Return (statement) of Government Property for the calendar year 1925. Notices to this effect were mailed to all delinquent clubs about May 1st. Unless these returns are sent in promptly action will have to be taken to close out the accountability and all government property returned to an arsenal.

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### NO MORE .22 CAL. SPRINGFIELDS AVAILABLE

THE supply of U. S. rifles, .22 caliber, model 1922 (Springfield), formerly sold for a price of \$39.12 each, has been completely exhausted. No more of this type of rifle will be manufactured. A supply of the improved model 1922 rifle, the Model M1, is being manufactured. They will not be available for sale for several months. When they are ready for sale to N. R. A. members, a notice to that effect will appear in this column, giving price and other information about this new rifle. To any one contemplating the purchase of one of these rifles it is suggested that they wait until about September 15th before writing for information.

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### SEND ORDERS IN EARLY

SOME time during the past winter this column contained an item advising every one to make timely provision for their spring and summer shooting requirements. This advice is being repeated for the benefit of those who are going to need ammunition or rifles or any other equipment sold through this office. Many orders are being received at the present time indicating that the purchaser has not made prior provision for his

needs. Many requests for shipments to reach the buyer by a certain date are received. This office always tries to expedite these orders, but you should remember that it all takes time. Even express shipments are not as speedy as some persons would like to have them. The best plan is to anticipate your needs by at least six weeks. Two months is better, particularly for shipments by freight for long distances. Express shipments sometimes reach the Pacific Coast from the East in about two weeks after the order leaves this office. The slogan or motto so much in evidence during the holiday season applies equally as well here. "Buy early and avoid the rush!"

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### REQUISITIONS FOR SUPPLIES

IT is suggested that all clubs that have not as yet submitted their requisition for the annual issue of supplies for the fiscal year 1926, do so as soon as possible. The fiscal year 1926 ends June 30th of this year. Clubs failing to get in their requisitions before the end of this fiscal year will lose their issue of ammunition, etc., for this fiscal year. Allowances are not carried over from one year to the next, but are for the particular year only.

These clubs having already drawn the annual issue for 1926, are advised that they may draw the annual issue for the fiscal year 1927 any time after July 1st of this year. All issues are made to clubs that are in good standing with the N. R. A. as regards dues, and have made their reports to this office. Issues of ammunition are made in accordance with the actual number of members engaged in target practice.

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### SPRINGFIELD SPORTERS AVAILABLE

AT the present time orders are being received very rapidly for the Springfield Sporter. Although there is a fairly good supply of these rifles available at the present time, they are going very fast. When the present supply is exhausted, there will be no more ready for shipment until some time in the fall. Any one who is thinking of buying one of these rifles for their summer and early fall shooting should order now. These rifles are authorized to be fired by Civilian rifle club members for qualification insignia. Any Sporter owner now is able to engage in both hunting and target shooting for record with the same fine rifle.



Conducted by C. B. Lister

#### TWELVE UNIVERSITIES IN SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER MATCH

ON Saturday, April 17th, the varsity rifle teams of twelve colleges and universities were the guests of the Crescent Athletic Club in Brooklyn for the firing of the Third Annual New York City Intercollegiate Matches. This is the largest number of teams that have ever competed in the match, and the steadily increasing activity in rifle shooting as an intercollegiate sport was well evidenced by the fact that the University of Minnesota sent a team all the way to New York to participate.

The match was fired in two relays of six teams each with Pennsylvania, Boston, Columbia, Syracuse, Norwich, and Minnesota on the firing line in the morning. The conditions of the match called for teams of five, all scores to count, ten shots per man in each of the four standard positions.

Minnesota team led in the prone position with a total of 497 for the five men. In the sitting position, they turned in a total of 487, a score which was equalled at that stage by Syracuse and beaten one point by Pennsylvania and Norwich. The Minnesota team had piled up a sufficient lead in the prone position, however, to enable them to remain high after the second stage had been fired. Pennsylvania and Norwich ran into heavy sailing in the kneeling position, but Columbia continued to "dog" the points from the Big Ten, both teams turning in an aggregate of 475. In the standing position, Minnesota again went over the top with an aggregate of 425 against 423 for Columbia. This left the Minnesota team high with the aggregate of 1,884 among the six teams firing through the first relay. Columbia was second with an aggregate of 1,866.

The second relay, consisting of Penn State, College of the City of New York, M. I. T., George Washington, Pittsburgh, and Dartmouth, then went to work. George Washington's 499 in the prone position gave them a two-point lead over Minnesota. In the sitting position the "Hatchetites" hung up a 492, which increased their lead seven points. In the kneeling position a 479 widened the gap to eleven points and in the final stage a 443 offhand gave the University riflemen from the National Capital a team total of 1,913 and first place in the match. Minnesota remained second with 1,884 and Columbia third with 1,866. The standing of all teams was as follows: First, George Washington, 1,913; second, Minnesota, 1,884; third, Columbia, 1,866; fourth, M. I. T.,

1,853; fifth, Syracuse, 1,851; sixth, Pennsylvania, 1,848; seventh, Penn State, 1,840; eighth Pittsburgh, 1,832; ninth, City of New York, 1,818; tenth, Norwich, 1,814; eleventh, Dartmouth, 1,808, and twelfth, Boston University, 1,664.

Although George Washington succeeded in defeating Minnesota, the latter team had the satisfaction of turning in the high individual score for the match when Swansen hung up 392 with scores of 100 prone, 99 sitting, 98 kneeling, and 95 standing, a score which topped by three points the efforts of the Riley twins, who both turned in 389.

The cooperation of the Crescent Athletic Club in turning over its range facilities to the college riflemen for this competition caused a great deal of favorable comment among the varsity shooters. The club did everything possible for the comfort of the teams and Mr. J. G. Delbon, chairman of the Range Committee of the Crescent Club, deserves the commendation of every one who is interested in seeing rifle shooting firmly established in our colleges.

Silver medals were presented to the winning team by the National Rifle Association and bronze medals to the second team.

Following the match the Minnesota team journeyed to Washington, where they were introduced to the Secretary of War and posed for their pictures with the Assistant Secretary of War.

With the New York City Intercollegiate Match continuing to grow at this present rate, an effort must now be made to find larger gallery facilities for the holding of the match, as the twelve teams present this year represent a maximum that can be comfortably accommodated on the Crescent ranges.

\* \* \*

#### SPECIAL MATCHES AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

OUT to develop rifle and pistol shots in the U. S. M. C. units here, and to promote interest in excellency in both service and civilian marksmanship, representatives of both groups have gotten together to stage regular competitions.

Josephus M. Asher, of the National Championship Civilian rifle team of 1925, Capt. James E. Snow, commanding officer of the U. S. M. C. rifle range detachment, the San Diego Rifle and Revolver Club and others are behind the move.

The first of the "Big Shoots" was held December 13, 1925, over the U. S. M. C. range, with four trophies donated by Asher.

The prizes: Two silver cups for individual winners to be won but once for possession, and two large silver trophies for team matches to be won three times for permanent possession.

Among the Marines competing were several of national reputation, while both National Guard and civilian teams have former national champions as shooting members.

While the Marines made a clean sweep of the various team matches, the civilians made them step some to win.

The Marines won the first pistol match from the San Diego Rifle and Revolver Club by but three points.

April 10, 1926, the Marines finally won the pistol trophy by a margin of 39 points.

In this match Col. James E. Urshek, U. S. M. C., made 277 out of 300 and 283 out of 300 over the regular National Match Course.

In the first rifle trophy match, the Marine team averaged 195 out of 200 per man at 200, 300, 500 and 600 yard ranges, with the Civilian team in second place, by a close margin.

Individual honors went to Pvt. E. Steen, U. S. M. C., 197 out of 200, with Lt. Murrell, California National Guard, taking a special silver trophy with a 191 out of 200.

The finish of the second rifle trophy match found the "Devil Dogs" again in first place with the San Diego Civilians a "bang up" second and the National Guard running a good third as in first match. Individual honors were taken by Walter Bellon, with Seitzinger and Tappa, U. S. M. C., second and third.

The third and final rifle trophy match was sure some match. This was over the regular "Army Course," with two sighters and 70 shots for record. Each man starting at 600 yards, the San Diego Civilians got the jump on the Marines, but with Col. James E. Urshek, U. S. M. C., making 340 out of 350, and the entire Marine team shooting for an average of nearly 33 out of 350 per man, over the course, they naturally took the match.

The San Diego Rifle and Revolver Club turned in the swell team average of about 328 out of 350 per man, with George S. Hall, high Civilian, with 330 out of 350.

As practically all the shooters in this match used "war time" 150-grain ammunition the scores made are remarkably high. The Civilian average for a team is believed to be the record in this class.

George Hall, Walter Bellon, Carl Shroder, H. H. Brotzman, Rex Drew and Ed Myrick, proved to be the star Civilian marksmen.

National Guard champs were Lt. Murrell, Lt. Thompson and Sgt. Rooks. U. S. M. C. depended mostly on Sgt. Tucker, Cpl. Urshek, and Privts. Steen, Tappa and Seitzinger.

During the period of these trophy matches exclusive Service Matches were also held for cash prizes and trophies donated by Mr. Asher.

The first Service Match, both rifle and pistol, were won by Sgt. James R. Tucker,



U. S. M. C., with Urshek, Russell, Tappa, etc., crowding him.

The second Service Match had, beside the usual cash prizes, a special Springfield Match rifle for high Individual score. Pvt. Clifford J. Tappa wanted this rifle so badly he shot a 331 out of 350, Army Course, 150-grain ammunition, beating out Cpl. Urshek by one point, so Tappa now has the rifle with a silver plate thereon telling all about it.

The third service shoot was nip and tuck between Sgt. Jimmy Tucker and Cpl. Urshek. Tucker turned in a 332 out of 350, but Urshek messed this up with 333 out of 350, and that's that.

The fourth and last service shoot to date was over the 1,000-yard range. Pvt. T. C. Seitzinger walked away with this regardless of Tucker, King, Urshek, Tappa and a score more of the "Devil Dogs."

In connection with these Service Matches, to add a little to the zest and to preserve the actual records and achievements of the marksmen, Mr. Asher has made a beautiful "Record Plaque." This plaque is an original stunt, and seems to help things along. The plaque is carved from heavy mahogany. The face of the plaque bears a burnished copper shield and mounted thereon the American Eagle in silver, the U. S. M. C. insignia silver shield bearing names of commanding officers and range officers.

There is a silver plate for Individual winners in both rifle and pistol matches, a silver cup to carry the winning of big matches. On the base is a large silver plate to bear the names of the winning teams in both rifle and pistol.

Each month the name of each honor man (winner) and each team winner is engraved on the plates designed for that purpose; thus a complete record, on metal, of the achievements of the men for 126 is permanently secured.

As the Marines made a clean sweep of the various team prizes, Mr. Asher has made a fine hardwood case with compartments therein for Rifle Trophy Plaque and Pistol Trophy and the whole works now adorn the office wall of the commanding officer, rifle range detachment, San Diego, Calif.

The Civilians hereabouts are not discouraged and propose to worry the Marines a whole lot in the future and the National Guard can be counted on to help this move along.

\* \* \*

#### OMAHA LEGIONNAIRES ACTIVE

THE Russell Hughes Post of the American Legion in Omaha is going after the rifle shooting game in earnest. In addition to an enrollment of thirty-five members of the Post in the rifle club, the organization has provided an associate membership for any American citizen in the city of Omaha and has extended an open house invitation to anybody in the city who wants to learn how to shoot. Matches with the Naval Reserve, National Guard and civilian teams throughout Nebraska are being planned by the club for the summer months.

#### CULVER STAGES ANNUAL INDIANA STATE SHOOT

THE Annual Gallery Matches of the Indiana National Guard and Indiana State Rifle Association were held in the Culver Military Academy Gallery on March 29th. The program consisted of six rifle and five pistol matches. All the rifle matches were fired at 50 feet. Match No. 1, a prone re-entry event, two sighters and ten shots for record was won by James H. Hurt, of Indianapolis, with a possible score with 169 bulls in addition. C. J. Rushton, of Clayton, was runner-up with a possible and 119 bulls-eyes over. Altogether there were twenty-seven possibles hung up in this match.

The Offhand Re-entry Match went to Henry J. Mueller, of Terre Haute, with the excellent score of 96. Winthrop L. McMichael, of Culver, turned in the same score, but was outranked by Mueller.

The Single Entry Prone Position Match developed sixteen twenty-shot possibles. Harry M. Turpin, of Newcastle, with twenty-six X's, was the winner, outranking Charles A. Slaven, of Terre Haute, who had the same score. McMichael of Culver again finished well up, taking third place, with nineteen X's.

The Offhand Single Entry Match was won by George T. Brady of Culver, with 189, Mueller of Terre Haute being runner-up four points behind the winner.

Match No. 5 was a five-man team match, all scores to count for record, any number of teams permitted from any organization, iron sights, all firing in the prone position. Teams No. 2 of Culver Military Academy won with a score of 996. The Hoosier Rifle Club "Buccaneers" were second with 993 and Danville third with 990. A total of twenty-one teams, representing civilian rifle clubs and National Guard organizations from all over the state, competed in this event.

The Sixth Rifle Match was dubbed the "Grandfathers' Match." It called for ten shots prone. Five grandfathers indicated that they thought themselves still good enough to shoot in a rifle match, and then substantiated the fact by turning in scores ranging from 93 to 100, Charles F. Ruschaupt of Indianapolis being the winner with a possible score.

The Re-entry Pistol Match at 50 feet on the Standard American 20-yard target was won by Homer A. Obenauf of Culver, with a score of 96, outranking J. E. Mathews, also of Culver, who made the same score.

The Single Entry Shot Match at 50 feet went to Claude C. Golden of Indianapolis, with a score of 94, with G. W. Mowrey of Warsaw a close second with 93.

The Re-entry Match at 25 yards on the L target with the Service pistol or revolver was won by John F. Houck of Fort Wayne with a possible score of 100. Henry J. Mueller and H. A. Obenauf also hung up possibles and the bulletin doesn't show whether Houck won first place by virtue of a shoot-off or a draw.

The Single Entry Pistol Match at 25 yards

was also won by Houck with a score of 99. Lt. Col. Basil Middleton of Culver took second with 98, outranking Mowrey of Warsaw, who had the same total.

The Pistol Team Match was fired at 50 feet with teams of five, all scores to count for record, and went to the Kosciusko Rifle Club of Warsaw with 448. Culver Military Academy Team No. 1 was second with 429. Eight teams participated in this match.

The prizes and trophies ranged from gold, silver and bronze medals and trophies all the way down through a broad list of merchandise such as cigars, hunting knives, cleaning material, ammunition, etc.

The Annual Match at Culver is one of the few really state-wide gallery match competitions held in the United States. The success of this annual affair indicates that other states are passing up an opportunity for splendid promotion work in not also attempting to hold State Gallery Matches as well as State Outdoor Matches.

\* \* \*

#### LONE STAR RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB ORGANIZES IN TEXAS

THE second Rifle Club has appeared in Austin, Texas, and, judging from the newspaper space already devoted to the organization, it will go over in good shape. Austin is large enough to support two active clubs, and a little healthy competition and rivalry will be a good thing for the game.

The club plans to immediately enter the Outdoor Postal Matches, and if Mr. B. J. Rupert, president of the club, is to be believed, the Lone Star Rifle and Pistol Club will shortly "be one of the snappiest in the Association."

\* \* \*

#### NATIONAL GUARD MATCH

THE result of the 10-man team pistol match between Company H, 160th Infantry, and 212th Artillery Regiment of New York, was: Company H, 4,524; 212th Artillery, 3,556. Conditions, 20 yards, standard American target, 50 shots per man.

In the rifle team match between 10-men teams, 10 shots each, offhand, sitting, kneeling and prone, at 50 feet on N. R. A. target, Company H scored 3,873 and the 212th Artillery 2,940.

All the men of Company H were from one company, while the Artillery team was picked from the entire regiment.

\* \* \*

#### DE PAUW UNIVERSITY FINISHES SUCCESSFUL GALLERY SEASON

DE PAUW UNIVERSITY, at Greencastle, Ind., has just concluded a schedule of eighteen dual matches with other colleges and universities, eleven of the matches resulting in victories, the only defeats being administered by such hard shooting aggregations as Washington State, C. C. N. Y., University of Minnesota, Norwich, Kan., and Iowa. The Girls' Team at the university had a perfect season's record, defeating eight teams, the matches calling for all the standard positions with the exception of off-hand.



## AMES BREAKS LOSING STREAK

AFTER losing three matches in a row, the Ames Faculty Rifle Club finally won one from the Dayton Rifle Club, 920 to 914. The Dayton second team nosed out the Ames second team, 853 to 851. The match called for 20 shots per man standing at 50 feet. In an individual standing match Jesse Moser and Alfred K. Friedrich tied, 477 to 477. This match called for 50 shots at 25 yards.

The scores:

## AMES FACULTY RIFLE CLUB TEAM NO. 1

	Score	Total
R. McCormick	84-96	180
P. T. McNeil	90-90	180
C. R. Morris	91-92	183
H. K. Davis	91-92	183
A. K. Friedrich	95-99	194
		920

## DAYTON RIFLE CLUB TEAM NO. 1

	Score	Total
W. A. Ferguson	86-89	175
A. H. Hafer	90-92	182
Jesse Moser	90-93	183
D. C. Meier	89-96	185
H. H. Jacobs	92-97	189
		914

## AMES FACULTY RIFLE CLUB TEAM NO. 2

	Score	Total
T. E. La Velle	76-87	163
A. S. McClay	79-87	166
John Hiland	84-88	172
J. V. McKelvey	81-92	173
Alfred Carter	84-93	177
		851

## DAYTON RIFLE CLUB TEAM NO. 2

	Score	Total
Lt. Williams	83-86	169
Dr. McManes	83-86	169
Ben Riley	84-87	171
Chas. Diller	81-90	171
A. J. Yearley	83-90	173
		853

ALFRED K. FRIEDRICH,  
Secretary.

\* \* \*

## HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 104TH INFANTRY WINS MASSACHUSETTS CHAMPIONSHIP

MASSACHUSETTS for many years has been known as a rifle shooting state, and the Massachusetts National Guard Team at the National Matches has always been sincerely respected by the other competitors. One reason for this situation may be found in the provisions of General Orders No. 6, issued at Boston under date of October 31, 1925, providing for a series of Gallery Matches throughout the National Guard of the State and requiring every company or similar unit to enter one team in case the unit is armed with the rifle. In the case of units not armed with the rifle, a team may be entered, teams to consist of not more than eight men, with the five high scores to count for the team total and only one man on each team who has ever been a firing member of the Massachusetts State Rifle Team. Men who are ineligible to shoot on the company teams are permitted to fire the course at the same time and their scores are considered in determining the State Individual Indoor Championship.

The course of fire calls for ten shots standing and ten prone at 25 yards, using the gallery practice "X" target. The matches are divided into two groups, first the preliminary competitions, and second, the final

competitions, the ten high individual competitors and the high team from each regiment or similar organization as determined in the preliminary competitions being eligible for the final match.

This year the winners in the preliminary competitions were divided into three groups, one group firing shoulder-to-shoulder in the Commonwealth Armory at Allston, one group in the 101st Infantry Armory at Boston, and the third group in the Armory at Springfield.

The finals of the Individual Championship were fired in the Commonwealth Armory. The final standing was as follows:

Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., 104th Infantry	445
Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 182nd Infantry	439
Troop A, 110th Cavalry	438
Co. H, 181st Infantry	436
Co. E, 101st Engineers	413
Battery D, 241st Coast Artillery	408
Battery H, 211th Coast Artillery	392

The Individual Championship was won by Lt. J. G. Brown of the 182nd Infantry, with a score of 95 out of 100. Lt. A. V. Harrington, Company I, the same regiment, turned in the same score, but was outranked.

\* \* \*

## V. P. I. WINS THIRD CORPS AREA CHAMPIONSHIP

VIRGINIA Polytechnic Institute, with a score of 7,719, has been announced as winner of the Third Corps Area R. O. T. C. Gallery Championship, their nearest rival being Penn State, with a score of 7,544. This performance tops a satisfactory season for V. P. I., particularly in view of the fact that the team this year lost six of the 1925 regulars. In the Middle States Intercollegiate League, firing against such competitors as University of Pennsylvania, George Washington, Maryland, Georgetown, Delaware, the Naval Academy and the College of William and Mary, V. P. I., lost but two matches. In addition to the league schedule, they downed M. I. T., 1,929 to 1,880, and Virginia Military Institute, 1,848 to 1,809.

\* \* \*

## SMALL-BORE MATCH IN OHIO

THE Ohio Rifle League will stage an Outdoor Small-bore Match on Sunday, May 30, on the Harrisburg Range, fourteen miles southwest of Columbus, on CCC Highway, State Route 3, Chenoweth's Sunshine Farm. N. R. A. rules will govern throughout.

The program will consist of the following matches:

- Match 1—50 yards, 20 shots.
- Match 2—100 yards, 20 shots.
- Match 3—200 yards, 20 shots.
- Match 4—Aggregate of Matches 1, 2 and 3.
- Match 5—50 yards, re-entry.
- Match 6—100 yards, re-entry.
- Match 7—200 yards, re-entry.

The entrance fee will be 50 cents for the Single Matches and 25 cents for the Re-entry Matches, 50 per cent of the cash to be returned to the competitors in cash prizes. Lunch available on the grounds.

## FATHER AND SON CHALLENGE AROUSES INTEREST

MR. O. W. HALE of Wilmington, Ohio, has accepted the challenge issued by Lieut. Col. Frank J. Schneller of Neenah, Wis., for a Father and Son Match. In accepting the challenge Mr. Hale goes Colonel Schneller one better and says: "Just to show that some parents still believe that learning how to use a rifle should have its place in the education of our young folks, I would like to challenge any other father and two sons to a match with the .22 caliber rifle, 50 to 200 yards, or if any one wants to make it a family affair, count Mrs. Hale in, too, and we will shoot against any father and mother and two sons or daughters."

\* \* \*

## SPOKANE LEADS WASHINGTON STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

ALTHOUGH Everett turned in the high team score in the Washington State Association Matches for the second week, the high score made by Spokane the first week enabled the latter aggregation to hold its lead in Class A. Wenatchee tops Class B, Monroe Class C, and Enumclaw the Unclassified. The aggregate scores to date in the league are as follows:

CLASS A	CLASS C
Spokane ..... 2618	Monroe ..... 2423
Bellingham ..... 2611	Tacoma ..... 2358
Everett ..... 2550	Olympia ..... 2159
Vancouver ..... 2490	Yakima ..... 1253
Arlington ..... 2353	UNCLASSIFIED
CLASS B	Enumclaw ..... 2293
Wenatchee ..... 2587	Walla Walla ..... 2243
Rainier ..... 2514	Longview ..... 1334
Waitsburg ..... 1297	

## Double Express Rifle vs. Repeaters

(Continued from Page 6)

beast; but even the best man is not sure of his own coolness all the time and in the sudden and deadly emergency, the old double, if one is accustomed to its use, is a friend in need.

To tell the whole truth, I never became used to mine and found myself always instinctively using the Springfield, the .405 Winchester or the Holland Mauser .375; nevertheless, the thought of the big gun was a great comfort—and I only wished it were a bigger bore, say a .577, and I liked it near me as night fell or when we were in thick brush—and this gives you an idea of its value!

## The Spencer Repeating Rifle

(Continued from Page 14)

stood a chance of being used in the Civil War. Serial numbers on the carbines started about January 1864. What rifles there are having serial numbers seem to be about 9,000 or 10,000 and were obtained about May, 1864.

A fact not generally known is that J. Wilkes Booth had a Spencer carbine when captured. Two of them were kept suspended between the walls of the conspirators headquarters in Maryland. They were probably the old model caliber .52.

# GIVE YOUR GUN **WINCHESTER** CARE

TRADE MARK

WHEN it comes to keeping your rifle or shotgun in the pink of condition—cleaning, lubricating and preserving it—to enable it to give you full measure of good service, you'll find WINCHESTER metal preparations meet every requirement in handy form. These preparations have been prepared with special care to do a specific work. For the proper care of firearms they are invaluable.

In addition, WINCHESTER General Utility Oil has countless uses every day around the home or office, in the factory, the garage, on the farm—everywhere.

Every gun owner should have a full kit of WINCHESTER metal preparations at hand.

## GUN OIL

Dissolves smokeless powder residue. An excellent preservative that should be applied to the inside of the barrel and to the mechanism, after cleaning, every time the gun is used. WINCHESTER Gun Oil does not dry, gum or cake. This preparation protects the metal, lubricates the parts and keeps them free from rust. Three-ounce can with patented oiler top.

## GUN GREASE

A heavy, non-flowing lubricant. When the gun is laid away, first clean it thoroughly, then apply a light coat to all metal

parts. WINCHESTER Gun Grease stays with the metal. It doesn't flow off. It prevents rust and keeps the gun permanently in good condition. Two-ounce tubes.

## CLEANER

Removes the accumulation of copper and nickel fouling in rifles without injury to the barrel. Should be used each time immediately after shooting metal-jacketed bullets. 3½-ounce bottles.

## RUST REMOVER

A mild abrasive for removing rust from bore or barrel. Comes in 2-ounce tube.

## GENERAL UTILITY OIL

A light lubricant—cleans and polishes. Use it on the stock and wooden forearm. The oil of a hundred uses. Good for cleaning and brightening any polished metal surface. Three-ounce can with patented leakless oiler top.

## LEATHER DRESSING

For preserving and softening leather. Excellent for rifle sling straps, razor strops and baseball gloves. In tubes.

# WINCHESTER

TRADE MARK

## METAL PREPARATIONS

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO.,

New Haven, Conn., U. S. A.



(A Unit of the National Rifle Association devoted to teaching every boy and girl in America the safe and accurate handling of the rifle.)

Conducted by H. H. Goebel

#### NATIONAL RIFLE DAY—JUNE 5th

THIS year June 5th has been set aside as National Rifle Day, a day for all rifle-men. Increased popularity in the sport has made this possible and much has been planned for the adult and junior marksman. Every military organization Adult Rifle Club and N. R. A. J. R. C. Unit is asked to co-operate spending the day shooting and teaching others to learn the handling of the rifle. The slogan is once again, "Make America a Nation of Riflemen."

These events will naturally be handled in a different way in each community; some will be conducted indoors, while others will be conducted out of doors in local parks, fields or in the suburbs of large cities. Programs will also vary and the shoot sponsored by different local organizations. In many cities match competition is scheduled for the morning, while the afternoon is devoted to novelty events. National Headquarters will be glad to assist and offer a suggested program for those who desire to put on this celebration.

If there is an adult rifle club, National Guard Team or any other adult club in your town it would be well to interest them in the plan and get their assistance and support. If possible, call a meeting including all N. R. A. J. R. C. Units, Boy Scout Masters, Y. M. C. secretaries, N. R. A. officials, military officials, as well as representatives of the American Legion. Plan your event and work your plan.

Between 500 and 1,000 rifle enthusiasts took part in the National Rifle Day events in New Haven, Conn., last season. This year plans are very much more elaborate, and long-range matches have been added to the program which is a step in the right direction. Let us all take a step forward in making "America a Nation of Riflemen" by setting aside June 5th as a red-letter day.

#### PORTO RICO ACTIVE

INSTRUCTOR JUAN IGLESIA and Assistant Scoutmaster Alfonso Maldonado have a fine unit of the Corps functioning in Ponce, Porto Rico. The unit affiliated with the Boy Scouts has a complete roll of twenty-one members. They are meeting regularly each week and in addition to their regular program go in for military instructions. It is said that they have the reputation of being the best trained company of youths in Ponce, if not on the island.

#### ABOUT THE STATE MATCH—AND THE CHAMPIONS

THE second stage (State) of the National Individual Junior Championship Match just completed was about the most successful competition of state shooting for the title "Junior State Championship" ever conducted by the Junior Rifle Corps. In practically every state that was represented in this match, the winner has been declared the champion because of his ability to stick more shots in the "A" ring. The fact that in every state, with the exception of Pennsylvania, Washington and Tennessee, the champions have scored a possible 100 is indication enough that close shooting was required to acquire the title, and that the general competition was close. The State Champions with their official scores are as follows:

Sam Moore, Newtonville, Mass.	100-20A
William Burch, Dixon, Iowa	100-20A
Orrin Rutledge, New Haven, Conn.	100-19A
James Stivers, Fresno, Calif.	100-19A
Helen Lightburn, Crestline, Ohio	100-17A
Alan A. Taylor, Brooklyn, N. Y.	100-17A
Eva Chatterson, London, Ont., Canada	100-17A
Raymond Baldard, Evanston, Ill.	100-17A
Norrid Hening, Detroit, Mich.	100-17A
Oliver Pilon, Fon du Lac, Wis.	100-16A
Thomas Smart, St. Louis, Mo.	100-16A
John Bulis, Walden, Colo.	100-13A
Jack Henthorne, Baltimore, Md.	100-13A
James Hurt, Jr., Winfield, Kans.	100-11A
P. Partington, East Orange, N. J.	100-9A
John Kneip, Tacoma, Wash.	97-8A
Jos. Kimble, Scranton, Pa.	96-7A
Howard Jackson, Bloomington Spggs., Tenn.	93-6A

\* \* \*

#### CONDITIONS OF THE FINALS

THE State Match was shot in the two positions (prone and sitting), and although the conditions of the Finals as in the case of the Local and State stages, have been mimeographed on the face of the targets sent out, for the information of those who have never before participated in the National Junior Individual Championship Match, we are taking this opportunity to state the conditions of the Final Stage. This shooting will be fired from the four positions (prone, sitting, kneeling and standing), five shots for record in each position. The last stage is open to any individual who has competed in either the Locals or State Matches or both, regardless of what his previous scores may be. All targets that are to count in the Finals must be back in Washington not later than May 29th. On June 1st the National Individual Junior Champion will be announced, and the champion, together with these members placing second and third, will receive the appropriate gold, silver and bronze medals provided for in the match.

#### INTERESTING FLORIDA STATE MATCH IN PROGRESS

INSTRUCTOR EDWARD BAISLEY, in charge of Unit 2,918 at Orlando, Fla., has on foot a state competition known as the N. R. A. Junior Rifle Corps Florida State Championship Match. Mr. Baisley has succeeded in getting the backing of the Orlando Reporter-Star, the leading newspaper of that city, as well as the cooperation of the Rock and Jones Sporting Goods Store. The Reporter-Star is offering a handsome Trophy Cup to be known as the Orlando Star Three-Year Trophy Cup, and which is to become the permanent possession of the Unit who wins the state shoot for three years in succession. Good white space in the form of publicity is being regularly devoted to this match through Reporter-Star headlines and sports columns, and Rock and Jones gratefully extends its co-operation by donating individual winner medals to the five high scorers of the winning team each year.

The match will be conducted by mail and will be fired during the week ending May 29th. It is open to any team of five or more shooting members representing any J. R. C. Unit located in the state of Florida who is affiliated with and in good standing with the National Rifle Association Junior Rifle Corps.

The conditions will be the same as the new conditions governing the Winner Seal Contest, namely: Any .22 caliber rifle; any .22 ammunition; any metallic sights; 50-foot range and the Official N. R. A. J. R. C. 50-foot single bull target. Twenty shots for record, slow fire from the prone position is the course of fire, and the unit instructors of all units participating will act as J. R. C. Official Judges. Immediately upon completion of the shooting the various unit instructors will mail the targets with affidavit direct to N. R. A. J. R. C. Headquarters for official scoring. National Headquarters will in turn publish an official bulletin which will be furnished to all units in the state interested in the match. It is thought that at least twelve units will have teams entered and close competition is expected. An account of the match will be given in the next mailing of the News.

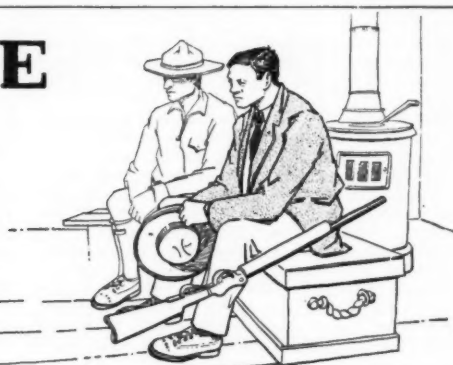
The local support which Instructor Baisley is enjoying in connection with the efforts to encourage marksmanship, and particularly his desire to promote junior rifle practice over the state of Florida, speaks well for the instructor and the members of 2,918. A State Match on the order of the shoot being sponsored in the sunny state might be arranged in practically every state, because the Junior Rifle Corps boasts of a strong following of regularly organized units throughout every section of the United States. This step by Mr. Baisley, it is hoped, will encourage instructors in other states to get together on some similar state-wide postal competition of rifle shooting among Junior Units. The Junior Rifle Corps will be mighty glad to co-operate in any way possible in helping put these special shoots over with big success.







## THE DOPE BAG



**A Free Service to Target, Big Game and Field Shots—All questions answered directly by mail**

Rifles and Big Game Hunting: Lt.-Col. Townsend Whelen

Pistols and Revolvers: Major J. S. Hatcher

Shotgun and Field Shooting: Captain Charles Askins

Every Care is used in collecting data for questions submitted, but no responsibility is assumed for any accidents which may occur.

## The Art of Trigger Squeeze

By Townsend Whelen

IN target shooting I have only permitted myself to shoot off hand, believing that this is the type of shooting which is most often required when hunting big game. Out of eight or ten big game animals I have shot, I have only had one standing shot and I made a better job out of the second shot on this moose while he was running than I did with the first one. In off hand target work I seem to get the best average results by developing my trigger squeeze quickly enough to pull the first time the bead is on the target rather than to make several readjustments before pulling. The result of this is that I seem to be tending to shoot with increasing speed.

What I want to know is if this is a good habit to develop or abandon for the particular purpose I have in mind. According to Stewart Edward White's requirements, it would never do for me to hunt dangerous game as I generally have no mental picture of what is going on between the time I open fire and the time the game goes down. White has one of these cool analytical heads that knows what he is doing every second, but my reflexes seem to call for a degree of concentration which leaves me pretty much of a mental blank while firing at game. I am not so much interested in what I ought to be doing as the actual clinical experience of what I have done in the past and how I can best develop my target work to make it most effective under this psychological condition.

After hunting over several sections of Eastern Canada, I am planning a trip to the Rocky Mountains this fall and want to have my range work this summer give me the best possible preparation for this trip.

A. N. F.

Answer (by Lt. Col. Whelen). I have your letter of March 3rd. In order to satisfactorily explain to you the coordination between holding, aiming, and trigger squeeze with the rifle, particularly in the standing position, and with reference to hunting, it will be necessary for me to go rather deeply into both the theoretical side of it, and also to give you my own experience. I trust that the length of this will not bore you.

In the Army we believe that proper control of the trigger is the essence of good shooting. In other words the good shot is not the man with excellent eyesight, and iron nerve, but he is the man who has learned correct trigger squeeze. We teach our re-

cruits to pull the trigger in a certain way. At the first this is slow, but the man learns no bad habits, particularly he does not develop the habit of flinching or jerking the trigger, and thus he progresses steadily until he is a good shot.

In all military bolt action rifle, in fact in any bolt action rifle, the trigger is arranged with a slack or preliminary pull. You will notice that the trigger first moves backward on an applied pressure of about 1½ pounds while the sear spring is being compressed and the sear lowered. This slack is essential to safety in the weapon, and must not be removed. The first thing about trigger pull to learn is that this slack must be taken up as the rifle is placed to the shoulder, and before any aiming takes place. The shooter must learn to do this as a matter of habit so he will do it instinctively every time when his right hand grasps the small of the stock. After the slack is taken up it should require about 2 to 3 pounds more pressure to discharge the rifle, and during this additional pressure the trigger should not move a particle. In other words there should be no drag or creep to the trigger until it suddenly gives way like the breaking of a thin glass rod, and the rifle is discharged.

The recruit is taught to apply this final pressure on the trigger very gradually and slowly, ounce by ounce. He squeezes very gradually, but he increases the pressure only during those instants when the sights are aligned correctly on the target. During the periods when the front sight drifts away from the bull he does not increase the pressure on the trigger, but simply retains what pressure he has already applied. He goes on with increase of pressure only when the front sight drifts back again to the proper spot below the bull. It follows that during one of these periods of increase of pressure the rifle will go off unexpectedly, and the sights being correctly aligned, the bull will be surely hit (assuming that the sights are correctly adjusted for elevation and windage). It also follows that as the rifle goes off unexpectedly while the pressure is being increased, the recruit does not know when it will be discharged, and hence he does not set his muscles against the discharge, and he does not flinch. In teaching the recruit this coordination we place him in the prone position with a sandbag rest so he will have no trouble with steady holding

and accurate aim, but can devote all his attention to the steady squeeze, and we also pad his shoulder and elbows so that the recoil will not affect him adversely. He learns to coordinate holding, aiming, and trigger squeeze in this way. Then we take the sandbag away from him and he learns the same thing in the prone position. Then we put him in the sitting, kneeling, and standing positions in turn, to learn the thorough coordination of aiming, holding, and proper trigger squeeze. During this period we do not care what score he makes, but we try to get him to make a good group in the target. Afterwards, by sight adjustment, we can teach him to make that group come in the bullseye.

Many older riflemen, who I think have not taken time to figure the matter out, have thought that this system was all bosh. They say that a man should carefully squeeze off the trigger when the sights appear to be right on the target. But if a recruit does it that way he always knows when the rifle is going off, and too often he sets his muscles against the recoil at that instant, and he jerks at the trigger, or he may close his eyes. He develops the habit of flinching, and this habit is extremely difficult to break. As evidence that we believe that we have the right method of instructing the beginner, before we had this method we used to qualify as marksmen or better about thirty percent of our men. Now with this method we qualify over eighty percent of our men.

As I look back on my own practice and learning to shoot in my boyhood days many years ago I realize that I instinctively adapted this slow pressure method, and I still use it in slow fire shooting in the prone position. That is I increase pressure on the trigger only when the sights are correctly aligned.

Gradually, as a beginner practices in this way he finds that he can put more and more of the required pressure on the trigger at the very start without having the rifle go off. Finally he comes to the point where, as he begins to aim, he takes up 90 percent of the pressure on the trigger, and then when the sights are correct he places an additional ounce of pressure on, and this additional ounce almost always sends the rifle off. By this time he is hardened against flinching and recoil, and while he may feel that the rifle is going to go off when he applies this final pressure, it does not cause him to set his muscles against it or to close his eyes. Pretty soon he realizes that he can fire the rifle when the sights are right whenever he desires, but all the same when it comes to an important match, he takes



precious care that he does not put any of the last portion of pressure on the trigger unless the sights seem to be correctly aligned.

You will realize that while the beginner is reaching this stage in the control of the trigger he is also progressing with the ability to hold steadily and to aim accurately. The recruit reaches this stage after about two weeks of careful coaching and range practice. After this rapid fire is taken up. In this practice he is taught the "Mechanism of rapid fire," that is the mechanical operation of his rifle, the quick but positive operation of the bolt while the rifle is held at the shoulder, an almost slight of hand performance. He works his bolt hard and like lightning, while he keeps his eyes on the target. The instant the bolt is closed his hand flies to the grip, and his right forefinger takes up the slack on the trigger. Then he spends as much time as he dares on aiming, holding, and perfect trigger squeeze as before. Pretty soon he finds that in rapid fire he can control the wing of the rifle in rapid fire so that the front sight drifts or swings to the proper place very quickly, and at that instant he can coordinate so as to squeeze on the last ounce of pressure. Then he is a good rapid fire shot. During all this time we are also teaching him sight adjustment and wind allowances, so that after about three weeks or a month he is ready to go to his record practice, in which he almost always qualifies as marksmen or better.

Prior to about 1908 we had a class of fire in the Army which I regard as extremely valuable from the standpoint of teaching really practical shooting. This consisted in five shots, rapid fire, standing, in 20 seconds, at 200 yards, the target being the silhouette of a man in the kneeling position. You had to shoot fast, you had to stand up and shoot, you had to have the mechanism of rapid fire down to a fine point. In this practice a number of us got so that we could make a possible every time. The bolt would be worked very fast. The instant it was closed the hand would snap to the grip, and the right forefinger would take up the slack. Then at once the whole position froze, and the front sight would swing back on to the target, but would swing slowly as it came close to the target. In the meantime pressure was being put on the trigger. As the front sight swung well into the middle of the kneeling silhouette the additional ounce needed to discharge the trigger would be squeezed on and the rifle would be discharged. This practice did a very great deal to perfect my game shooting. It taught me to swing quickly but steadily on to the game and to squeeze the trigger practically instinctively when the front sight was well behind the shoulders. In 35 years of hunting I have killed eighty-seven head of big game, and have missed or failed to get five head. Of these five one was shot at with a shotgun, and in one case the miss could be traced directly to a defect in the rifle.

In game shooting in the standing position I believe that the proper method is to swing surely but steadily on to the animal, but so swing becomes progressively slower as ones front sight touches the animal. It should almost come to a pause as the front sight comes well into the animal behind the shoulder. Then when the sight comes there and seems to steady for an instant the last ounce should be squeezed on the trigger. At least that seems to be the way I do it. But I also think that to do this surely and reliably will take quite a little apprenticeship in the system of training for beginners that I have tried to describe in the first part of this letter.

This form of shooting I should term "snap

shooting." It is the only successful method that I know of for game in motion or about to jump. We hear much about the lead necessary on running game. My experience has been that most running game is shot at within 50 yards while it is running through thick woods. In such a case lead is not necessary, but one has to choose an open place through the trees and then swing his front sight well on to the animal as it passes through this open place, and squeeze the last ounce on when the front sight is well on the animal—an easy thing to say, but darn hard to do, and a thing that I can do only when conditions are most favorable. I have jumped many a white-tail that went off without my being able to get my sights on it at all, and without firing. Sometimes in the open, particularly on Western mountains, one may get a shot at a running animal at long range. Then of course lead must be taken, and if one will squeeze when the front sight touches the point of the chest he stands as good a chance as by any other method.

There is one form of shooting that I have seen many men unfamiliar with the rifle attempt. This is throwing the rifle to the shoulder and shooting as soon as the butt strikes the shoulder, something like the fastest kind of snap shooting with the shotgun. It may work if the animal is within ten yards or so, but it is almost certain to result in a miss if the beast be any distance away. This method of shooting usually marks one as knowing nothing whatever about the use of the rifle.

I think that by the method of snap shooting as described above, a good shot, after he has practiced it, ought to be able to keep about 75 to 80 percent of his shots in about a 15 inch bull at 200 yards. But by lying down in the standard prone position, slow fire, taking lost of time, increasing the squeeze on the trigger only when the sights appear absolutely correct, the good shot also ought to be able to place ten consecutive shots in a 5 inch group at 200 yards with a very accurate rifle. In snap shooting we must expect a slight inaccuracy of hasty aim, and also a slight inaccuracy from a suspicion of a jerk at the trigger.

When all is said and done any method which will permit a man, shooting offhand to place 75 per cent of his shots in a 15 or 20 inch circle at 200 yards in fairly quick time is all right, and will get the game. I think that the only method which will do this is the one which I have described.

#### CHANGING OVER THE .45 COLT AUTO.

I SHOULD like to make the changes in my .45 Colt Automatic, Model 1911, U. S. A., embodied in the recent improvements. Kindly let me know the parts necessary, their cost and whether obtainable from the D. C. M.

Incidentally, may I ask whether the N. R. A. Service Co., Inc., is identified with the N. R. A. or D. C. M.? If it is, I take the liberty of suggesting that it might be advantageous to make it clear.

H. C. H.

Answer (by Major Hatcher). The parts necessary to change your Colt over to the latest model are the following:

Trigger .....	\$1.50
Grip safety .....	1.70
Main spring housing .....	1.50

These parts are not obtainable from the D. C. M., but can be obtained directly from the Colts Patent Firearms Company, Hartford, Conn.

The N. R. A. Service Co., Inc., is affiliated with the N. R. A. It is a separate corporation which has been organized to handle the sales of material which were formerly handled by the N. R. A. itself.

#### POWER IN THE SERVICE CARTRIDGE

I HAVE been having some correspondence with the National Rifle Association and also with Henry H. Lyman of the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation concerning a cartridge for my S. & W. 1917 Army Model Double-action Revolver which will give me greater accuracy than the regular Army cartridge. I understand this cartridge has great shocking power, but is a short-range cartridge which is not as accurate as some other loads. Both Mr. Lyman and Mr. Lister of the National Rifle Association referred me to you, and Mr. Lister tells me he referred the last paragraph of my letter to him, to you.

I would like to have your opinion concerning the best cartridge for long range and accurate shooting, the purpose being to use it for woodchucks. I was recommended to buy a .44 S. & W. Special, but I thought it was too bad that, as long as I already have a new .45 1917 Army Model, to be obliged to get a .44, and it occurred to me that both guns being practically alike, I ought to be able to get a cartridge which would fit my Army Model and do the work which the .44 Special will do. I notice that the .45 auto. rim cartridge or the .45 automatic cartridge with clip does not reach within one-quarter inch of the end of my cylinder. I thought perhaps I could buy a loading tool and get special shells from the Remington or some other place which would take a different shape lead bullet that would be more accurate and a longer range load.

I also have an old Colt .45 Frontier Model which shoots the .45 Colt cartridge. Do you think this cartridge is as accurate as the .44 S. & W. cartridge? I have just sent this gun back to the Colt people to be put in first-class condition and expect to get a lot of fun out of this gun, but I would like to get a loading tool which would load cartridges for both these guns, if possible.

Which do you think would be better: the Ideal loading tools, now controlled by the Lyman people, or the loading tools made by Belding & Mull at Phillipsburg, Pa.?

I would appreciate very much any information you can give me, and if one of the Government arsenals produces cartridges which will answer my purpose just as well, perhaps it would be better for me to get them from this source through the N. R. A. than to try the reloading myself.

H. B. P.

Answer (by Major Hatcher). I do not believe that it would be possible for you to improve on the accuracy of the present Government .45 caliber cartridge. This cartridge is now loaded to a pressure as high as it is considered safe to go, and the entire resources of the Engineering Staff and Experimental Department of Frankford Arsenal have been used on the problems of obtaining greater accuracy in the different types of ammunition. The result is that the .45 caliber automatic pistol cartridge as now made is one of the most accurate pistol cartridges to be obtained anywhere.

Our tests at 50 yards show that this bullet will give a group of 1½ inches in diameter.

As far as ranging power goes, it is true that this bullet has a considerable drop in trajectory after a couple of hundred yards, but that is inherent in any large caliber revolver bullet because the large size of the bullet makes it have a very high air resistance which reduces the velocity.

The Government bullet has sufficient power to kill a person at 1,500 yards' distance if you could hit him with it. The reason it is not quoted as effective at long ranges is because it is impossible for any



one to hold a revolver well enough to hit a man at any range over about 200 yards.

I do not believe that there would be the slightest chance of any hand-loader being able to improve on the accuracy of the .45 caliber ammunition as it is now being made.

#### POWER OF THE .44-40

**J**UST recently purchased a .44-40 caliber Colt S. A. 71-2 through the American Rifleman and would like for you to answer a few questions regarding it if you will.

Is this arm accurate enough with reduced loads to compete with a .38 Special Target Model?

Barrel is small at both ends and large in the middle. Found this out by pushing a plug through the barrel from each end. Please explain why bored this way.

In reducing trigger pull of this gun do you advise the working over the trigger or hammer?

Do you advise enlarging the rear sight on this model? It is, as you know, a very small V and the front sight is really a partridge. Is it not advisable to let plenty of space on each side of the sight as it appears when sighting?

Would a soft-point bullet, as made by Belding & Mull, be of any advantage in the above gun?

The force of main spring seems to be excessive, and as hammer is so heavy and has so far to fall, could I change the force of main spring, and how?

Did you ever see any one do any real shooting with a S. A. by fanning from the hip? Could the best snap-shooter hope to compete with a fair target shot who takes his time to a shot and holds according to regulation? G. K. B.

Answer (by Major Hatcher). The .44-40 is a first-class gun for any heavy use, but is not as accurate for target work as the .38 Special.

The barrel is not intended to be bored larger in the middle. This is due to some accident in manufacture which sometimes happens. The chances are that it will do no harm.

To reduce the trigger pull, broaden the point of the trigger and smooth it up as much as possible, but do not work on the hammer if you can avoid it. If you do any work on the hammer merely make the notch shallower by taking away some of the metal on the outside, but do not work on the face of the notch. I believe it helps to enlarge the rear sight notch.

A soft-point bullet is not of any particular advantage in a gun that has as low a velocity as this, as far as mushrooming is concerned, because it does not have enough speed to mushroom, but a lead bullet is preferable to a jacketed one in revolvers because it wears the barrel less and does not glance so much.

I have seen close practical shooting done from the hip with the S. A. Colt, but for target work this type of shooting can not compete with the regular target method.

#### CHANGING PULL ON AUTO. SHOTGUN

**I**HAVE a Remington Auto-loading 12-gauge shotgun and would like to alter the trigger pull.

The trigger pull as adjusted at the factory consists of a safety pull of about 2 pounds for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch and then a let-off of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  pounds.

As you possibly know, the trigger engages directly with the hammer sear notch, thus doing away with any links, etc.

The question in my mind is, would it be possible and safe to adjust this pull so as to give no safety pull at all, but only one sharp let-off, the same as on a revolver. Do you think this advantageous and would

it be necessary to cut off part of the notch or sear or both?

Can you give me a good explanation of why a short-barrel rifle kicks more than one with a long barrel, in spite of the fact that the long-barrel rifle gives a little higher velocity to the bullet? Of course, other things being equal, such as weight, etc. G. J. McL.

Answer (by Capt. Askins). I think you could reduce the pull of trigger on that Remington automatic by whetting down the sear or the hammer notch, but better not try to remove the take-up. This is a safety device on that kind of gun, intended to prevent double discharges. If you removed it you might get a double quicker than you could say "Jack Robinson's black tomcat." A total pull of about 4 pounds would be about right. Gun will wear smoother in course of time.

The principle involved in the kicking of short-barreled rifles as compared with those having longer barrels is that the hotter the gas and the higher the pressure at which it reaches the muzzle, the heavier the recoil. Recoil comes in part from the hot gas striking the air and reacting on the rifle.

#### CHARGES FOR 200-GRAIN BULLET

**P**LEASE give me the address of the Western Tool and Copper Co. and inform me of the maximum charge of No. 16 powder to use with the 200-grain bullet. W. E. B.

Answer (by Lt. Col. Whelen). The address of the Western Tool and Copper Works is Station G, Box 57, Oakland, Calif.

You ask the proper charge of No. 16 powder to use with their 200-grain bullet, but you do not state the caliber of the bullet, nor do you state the rifle for which you wish the charge, but it is presumed that you refer to the 200-grain .30 caliber bullet, and to the Springfield cartridge. The following are the best charges to use with this bullet:

Maximum charge of Du Pont No. 16 powder, 46 grains weight, M. V. about 2,400 f. s.

Maximum charge of Du Pont No. 17½ powder, 46.8 grains weight, M. V. about 2,425 f. s.

Maximum charge of Du Pont No. 15½ powder, 48.5 grains weight, M. V. about 2,400 f. s.

With this bullet I recently fired 50 shots each with the two following charges: 45 grains No. 17½, M. V. about 2,300 f. s., and 44 grains No. 16, M. V. about 2,300 f. s. The ten-shot groups averaged about 2.1 inches at 100 yards with both loads, and both loads also shot with exactly the same elevation and windage. I regard these loads as most satisfactory for any American game. In fact, I think that they are the best Springfield loads for any heavy game.



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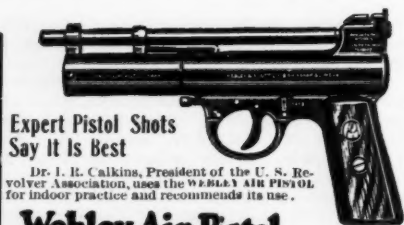
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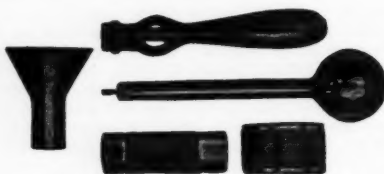
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.250-3,000 cal. Rifle, Neidner barrel, on short Mauser action, 6½ lbs., fine Circassian stock, with ebony tip and pistol grip cap, beautifully checkered, imported steel trap butt plate, gold bead front, Lyman rear peep sight, brand new, just finished, \$150.00. Another in 7 mm. cal., 7 lbs., Neidner barrel, Circassian stock, with ebony tip and grip cap, Jostam recoil pad, stock beautifully checkered, sighted with gold bead front, Lyman rear peep, \$125.00. A Ballard of the finest type, 6½ model, beautifully engraved from muzzle to butt, 30 in. Rigby barrel, horn inlaid Circassian pistol grip stock, and horn tip forearm. This Ballard is a specimen for the man who wants the finest type of this rifle. It is in the original new condition, Vernier sights, not a spot or blemish inside or out. Single-shot Winchester, heavy action, brand new No. 3 barrel, .32-20, stock nicely checkered, duck bill forearm, \$15.00. Remington Auto. 12 ga. shotgun, raised matted rib, barrel perfect inside, bluing worn some outside, stock pistol grip and forearm nicely checkered, gun perfect and a bargain, \$35.00. One new .22 cal. improved model S. & W. target pistol, 10-in. barrel, Patridge sights, \$22.50. Offhand Stevens 6-in. barrel, new on used action, perfect, \$8.00. Lever action .250 cal. Savage takedown, perfect condition, \$25.00. Stocks for all rifles from \$18.00 to \$50.00. Hand-made to your order of select black walnut and finest Circassian and French walnut. One new Mauser action, \$15.00. All F. O. B. R. D. Tait, Dunsmuir, Calif.

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**FOR SALE OR TRADE**—Engraved Ballard No. 3, Neidner barrel, A-1 except stock; .52 Winchester, new condition; 177 B. S. A. air rifle; Baker Paragon, gauge 12, made to order for traps, right full, left modified; 38 pocket model Colt Auto., A-1, does not jam. **WANT**—Marine Dismal Monocular, B. & M. 3-X scope and mounts; 4 Remington rifle. C. H. Murphy, 1560 Union Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

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"AMERICAN RIFLEMAN." "OUTDOOR LIFE." 1924-1925. \$2.00 a year. U. S. Krag Book, \$1.00. Edwin Gale, Alameda, Calif.

**FOR SALE**—X-Ray machine, \$90.00; cost \$2,200; or will trade for Winchester or Remington trap grade shotgun or Springfield Sporter of value. Write for particulars. M. J. Schmitz, Gunnison, Colo.

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**FOR SALE**—Cal. 32-20, new, Colt S. A., 5½-in. bbl., \$26.00; hand-made holster that fits, \$5.00; or both for \$30.00. V. H. Parker, 113 N. 11th St., Ft. Pierce, Fla.

**WANTED**—New .22 Stevens Favorite, peep sight for same. **SELL OR TRADE**—22 Stevens pistol, 6-in. barrel, fine condition, holster \$8.50, double barrel, .410 hammerless, like new, \$16.00. Chas. Gennon, 122 No. Elm St., Albuquerque, N. M.

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**FUTURE MATCH SCHEDULES**

Clubs are invited to list their matches in this department. Notices must reach the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN two weeks before publication date.

**ROOSEVELT RIFLE CLUB, NEW YORK CITY**—To be shot at Elmsford, N. Y., on outdoor range, June 6. Any .22 rifle, any sights, any pull. Gold and silver medals. Extra silver medal for high metallic sight score. Further information from J. M. Hilborn, treasurer, 43 E. 19th Street, New York City. Entrance fee, \$3.00; no range fee.

**WASHINGTON STATE RIFLE MATCH**—Open to all members of Washington National Guard. Fired at home range of each unit. Fired under training regulations No. 150-10. Range, 200 yards. Four positions. Fired at convenience of each unit. Must be completed by June 1. Service rifle.

**WASHINGTON STATE PISTOL MATCH**—Open to all members of Washington National Guard. Service pistol. Service regulations. Fired on home range by each unit at its convenience. Must be completed by June 1.

**OLON SPRINGS, WISCONSIN**—May 23. Club and team shoots. Thirty caliber. Range, five miles northeast of Solon Springs. Small-bore range, one-half mile west of Cosgrove Hotel, in Solon Springs.

**OHIO RIFLE**—Harrisburg Range, 14 miles southwest of Columbus, Ohio, on CCC Highway, State Route 3. Small bore.

**EASTERN SMALL BORE MATCHES**—Sea Girt, July 1 to 5, inclusive.

**LONG BEACH, CALIF.**—Small Bore and Pistol, June 26 and 27. For details communicate with C. M. Counts, Elks Club, Long Beach, Calif.

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**—Shooting every week. Visiting riflemen or pistol shots should communicate with C. C. Finn, 323 Coleman Bldg., Seattle, Wash.

**LEAGUE MATCH** is set for Memorial Day. This is on Sunday, May 30, at Harrisburg, Ohio (near Columbus), 50, 100 and 200-yard ranges, with re-entry and practice targets available. Matches will be 50 cents each, re-entry targets 25 cents each, and practice targets 10 cents each. Lunch is to be furnished on the grounds.

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Over the rim of the sea came a gray shape, whispering along in a white cloud of spray—the U. S. Destroyer Nicholson.

"Do not surrender," she radioed the Luckenbach.

"Never," came back the answer.

A few moments later the U-boat, sighting the Nicholson, fired a final defiant shell and disappeared.

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